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FEDERAL ELECTION  
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OFFICE OF GENERAL

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March 31, 2000

Federal Election Commission  
Washington DC 20463

Attention: Ms Tracey C Robinson

Dear Ms Robinson

As per our conversation on the phone, I am putting in writing what I explain to you on the phone.

Upon receiving the MUR 4967, I disagree with the conclusion that I as treasurer of the Mississippi Democratic Party Pac intentionally disregarded the due dates on which the reports are supposed to be filed. I have enclosed the explanation for this report.

I was elected to the General State Executive Committee on May 1996, I was not told nor were any of the incoming members that the State Party was in such disarray. This continues on through the end of the year with the Executive Director being dismissed. This occurred in October of 1996. Peggy Peterson resigned January 25, 1997 in a mist of disarray of reports for 1995 and 1996 not being filed properly with unknown balances on each and every report. Again this was unknown to me. The past chairman Mr. Johnny Walls appointed Melody McAnally as treasurer from January 25, to April 12, 1997. Ms. McAnally resigned after finding out the party reports were not in good standing and she would have to deal with this problem immediately. Again this was not told to me. Chairman Walls was aware of these problems but yet did not tell me of them. On or about April 4 or 5 the some of the State Party Executive Committee Members came to me and ask me if I would be treasurer of the party since the treasurer had resign and the party must have a treasurer to be allowed to remain functional. The first day that I walked into the office, I received a call from your office stated we have been fined 4200.00 for 1995 reporting and that if we did not comply immediately we would be in civil court. Now, when I took over we had \$49.00 in the bank, \$30,000.00 in debt and the FEC had just fined us for something I did not understand. There was no one in the office that could tell me anything about FEC filing and I did not understand the procedures at all. When the next few weeks I was notified that the 95 and 96 reports were incorrect and must be corrected or we would be fined for that. You can verify this with the Reports Analysis Division. All of the reports for 95 and 96 were marked with "UNKNOWN BALANCES" and incorrect information. These reports were finally corrected late in the year. After correcting these reports and then started on the 1997 reports which I sent in as soon as that were ready, again you must realize I had to find a balance from previous reports and there were no one in the office to guide me. I did not know where to seek information because of the disarray and power struggle going on within state party itself. In 1998 we were informed we were to be in audit for the 1995 and 1996 report period due to irregularity of our filing. Again I would have to be involved in representing our State Party in this matter in which all records had been removed from the headquarters. A non-corporate Chairman who would not talk to the FEC Auditors nor help me with the problem of finding the information that the Auditors requested. If you will check with this department and I did everything that I could to comply with their request. I even flew to Washington to make sure that the things that they needed were what I understood them to be. Being involved with this problem I did not file as I should have and did not realize the penalty of not filing properly until I started working with the auditors and I learned quite a lot on the procedures in which to file FEC reports. In July 1998, my son was diagnosed with melanoma cancer and had surgery on September 9, 1998 and I took 2 months off to help him recover and that is the reason that all reports were filed at the same time. I never intentionally ignore filing time or dates, I just was not aware of the proper way of filing. Spending time with your auditors enlighten me and I can assure you that this will not be continuing problem with this. Mid Year 1999 reports were filed on time with the exception of year ending 1999 because my husband had a stroke on September 21 1999 and was in very

serious conditions in which he in stayed a UAB in Birmingham Alabama until October 23, 1999. He was released from there to go home and had to have 24 hour care until January 2000. I began working on the year ending report in late January and was filed in March 23, 2000. There were several items I had trouble getting records for but I finally was able to get the information to file the reports. During this time of absence I asked the Committee to appoint a temporary treasurer in which the administrative committee could not find someone to take this responsibility.

The State Democratic Party is financial stability is very thin. The 95 & 96 Audit found we must raise \$23,000.00 so to return non-permissible contributions. I can assure you that we take the FEC reporting very serious and due to some circumstances beyond my control has cause this your committee to take this action. I ask that you reconsider the fine due to the circumstances as stated above. If you find that it be necessary to come to Washington to meet with your counsel and answer any further questions they might have in this matter. I can assure you that there will be no more late filing as long as I am treasurer of this committee. Please send any further correspondence to my address at Jodie Robinson PO Box 730 Taylorsville Ms 39168.

Thank you

Jodie Robinson  
Treasurer  
Ms Democratic Party Pac