



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Lawrence H. Norton
General Counsel

BY: Rhonda J. Vosdingh
Associate General Counsel for Enforcement

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SUBJECT: MUR 5181 – Ashcroft 2000
Extension Request for Reply to General Counsel’s Supplemental Brief and Tolling
of Statute of Limitations

SEP 11 2003

SENSITIVE

At the July 8, 2003 Executive Session, the Commission considered a General Counsel’s Report in MUR 5181 dated June 30, 2003 that contains probable cause to believe recommendations. At that Executive Session, the Commission directed this Office to conduct limited additional discovery. See General Counsel’s Memorandum to the Commission in MUR 5181 dated July 18, 2003. The resulting additional information was highlighted in the General Counsel’s Supplemental Brief to Ashcroft 2000 and Garrett Lott, as treasurer, and Spirit of America PAC and Garrett Lott, as treasurer, (together, “Respondents”) dated August 25, 2003. On September 8, 2003, Respondents submitted a seven-day extension request to reply to the General Counsel’s Supplemental Brief. After Respondents agreed to toll the statute of limitations for the period of the extension, this Office granted the extension to September 16, 2003. The working statute of limitations date is now November 15, 2003.

A General Counsel’s Report analyzing Respondents’ Supplemental Reply Brief will be drafted and circulated to the Commission for consideration, together with the General Counsel’s Report dated June 30, 2003, at the Commission’s September 30, 2003 Executive Session. This date

- 1 would allow time under the working statute of limitations deadline, should the Commission vote to
- 2 find probable cause to believe that violations have occurred, to carry out the required 30 days of
- 3 conciliation, and, if necessary, vote to authorize civil suit at the Commission's November 4, 2003
- 4 Executive Session. *See* 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(4)(A)(i) and (6)(A).
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