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2001 APR -5 A 8:51

March 23, 2001

Attn: Jeff S. Jordan / Alva E. Smith / Elizabeth Williams
Central Enforcement Docket
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

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COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL

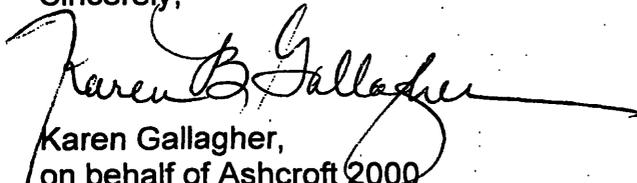
Re: MUR No. 5181

Enclosed please find the response of Ashcroft 2000, the Federal Election Commission ("FEC) registered principal campaign committee of former Senator John Ashcroft ("Committee") in response to the complaint (the "Complaint") dated March 8, 2001 filed with your office requesting FEC investigation of potential violations of the Federal Elections Campaign Act (the "Act"), 2 U.S.C. Section 441, et. seq.

The Committee requests that this matter remain confidential in accordance with 2 U.S.C. Sections 437g(a)(4)(B) and 437g(a)(12)(A). The Committee also does not desire to participate in the FEC's Alternative Dispute Resolution program.

We look forward to a prompt and expeditious resolution of this matter. The Committee is dedicated to complying with the Act in all respects and is ready, willing and able to provide any further assistance the FEC may request on this matter. Please direct all further correspondence in this matter to the undersigned at the address indicated on the first page of this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Karen Gallagher,
on behalf of Ashcroft 2000
Its: Treasurer

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Alliance for Democracy,
Common Cause,
National Voting Rights Institute,
Hedy Epstein and
Ben Kjelshus

MUR No. 5181

v.

RESPONSE OF ASHCROFT 2000

Ashcroft 2000
Spirit of America Political Action Committee

Ashcroft 2000, a Federal Election Commission ("Commission") registered multi-candidate committee ("Committee") submits this response pursuant to 11 C.F.R. §111.6, in MUR No. 5181 to a complaint (the "Complaint") dated March 8, 2001 filed with the Federal Election Commission requesting investigation of potential violations of the Federal Elections Campaign Act (the "Act"), 2 U.S.C. §441, *et. seq.* For the reasons set forth herein, the Committee respectfully requests that the Commission take no further action on the Complaint.

SUMMARY

The Committee believes that the Complaint is a politically-motivated effort to create negative press coverage and not a good faith attempt to inform the FEC of a potential violation of the Act. The Committee states unequivocally that it did not accept any direct or in-kind contributions from Spirit of America except as reported on the Committee's FEC Reports. Therefore, the Complaint's only factual allegation, that an undisclosed illegal in-kind contribution occurred, is wholly false.

DISCUSSION

The Committee unequivocally denies that it accepted any in-kind contributions from Spirit of America, an FEC-registered multicandidate committee ("SOA"). The only contributions received by the committee from SOA during the last election cycle were a \$5,000 contribution for each of the primary and general elections in accordance with applicable federal contribution limits.

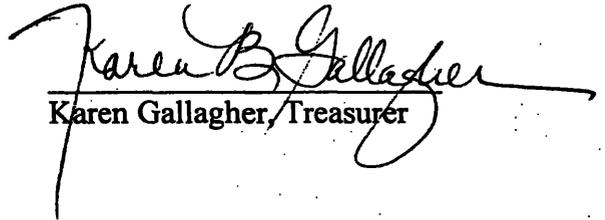
The Committee conducted all of its fundraising efforts through outside, professional vendors utilizing lists prepared by those vendors. John Ashcroft granted to the Committee a license to use certain information owned by him, including the authority to rent from vendors mailing lists developed for Spirit of America. The Committee subsequently sub-licensed all or a portion of the licensed data to others, along with other intellectual property owned by the Committee, all in full compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA") and applicable FEC regulations.

CONCLUSION

The Committee unequivocally denies accepting any in-kind contribution from Spirit of America. For the reasons provided above, the Committee requests that the Complaint be dismissed in its entirety and further respectfully requests that the FEC take no further action related to this matter. The Complaint provides no basis for further consideration by the Commission of any of the issues raised, and the Committee requests the Commission take no further action on this politically motivated request.

Dated April 2, 2001

ASHCROFT 2000


Karen Gallagher, Treasurer



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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

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March 15, 2001

General Counsel's Office
Central Enforcement Docket
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

MUR 5181

Re: Spirit of America

Dear Sir/Madam:

This correspondence is sent on behalf of Ashcroft 2000, the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") registered principal campaign committee of former Senator John Ashcroft ("Committee") in response to the complaint (the "Complaint") dated March 8, 2001 filed with your office, by, *inter alia*, Common Cause (copy attached hereto for reference) requesting FEC investigation of potential violations of the Federal Elections Campaign Act (the "Act"), 2 U.S.C. §441, et. seq.

Summary

The Committee believes that the Complaint is a politically-motivated effort to create negative press coverage and not a good faith attempt to inform the FEC of a potential violation of the Act. The Committee states unequivocally that it did not accept any direct or in-kind contributions from Spirit of America except as reported on the Committee's FEC Reports. Therefore, the Complaint's only factual allegation, that an undisclosed illegal in-kind contribution occurred, is wholly false.

Discussion

The Committee unequivocally denies that it accepted any in-kind contributions from Spirit of America, an FEC-registered multicandidate committee ("SOA"). The only contributions received by the committee from SOA during the last election cycle were a \$5,000 contribution for each of the primary and general elections in accordance with applicable federal contribution limits.

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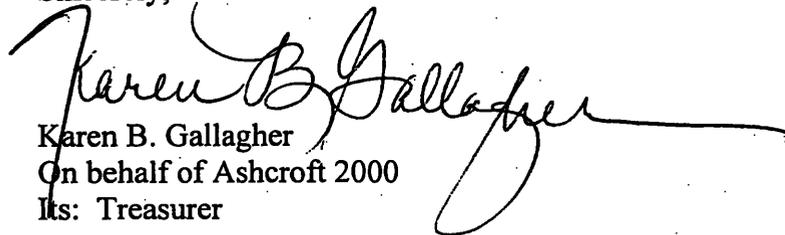
March 15, 2001

Committee a license to use certain information owned by him, including the authority to rent from vendors mailing lists developed for Spirit of America.

The Committee subsequently sub-licensed all or a portion of the licensed data to others, along with other intellectual property owned by the Committee, all in full compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA") and applicable FEC regulations.

For the reasons provided above, the Committee requests that the Complaint be dismissed in its entirety and further respectfully requests that the FEC take no further action related to this matter. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,



Karen B. Gallagher
On behalf of Ashcroft 2000
Its: Treasurer