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## Soft-Money Rule

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To the Editor:

You say I supported "a total carve out" of McCain-Feingold's soft-money solicitation ban so that federal officeholders and candidates can speak without government restriction at state party soft-money fundraising events (editorial, June 24). Actually, it was Congress, not the Federal Election Commission, that created this provision.

McCain-Feingold provides that "notwithstanding" the soft-money solicitation ban, federal candidates and officeholders "may attend, speak or be a featured guest at a fund-raising event" for state and local parties.

Despite this clear statutory language, some people tried to read this provision out of existence by concluding that although members of Congress can headline and speak at a fund-raising event, they cannot say anything that could be construed as seeking financial support.

You are free to advocate that the federal government should regulate the speech of members of Congress at political events. But you should make clear that such a result is contrary to the plain language of the McCain-Feingold law.

MICHAEL E. TONER  
Commissioner  
Federal Election Commission  
Washington, June 25, 2002

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