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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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RELEASE: ON RECEIPT

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FEC LISTS THREE REQUESTS

FOR ADVISORY OPINIONS

WASHINGTON - OCTOBER 31 - The Federal Election Commission has been asked to exempt county and other local political party committees from the reporting requirements of the federal campaign finance act.

In a Request for an Advisory Opinion (AOR #86) to be published Tuesday in the Federal Register, the Republican National Committee told the Commission that "it may be possible for a large administrative burden to be lifted from the Commission, while obtaining substantial compliance with the law, if ground rules can be established for the operation of such local party organizations."

The RNC proposed five "tests" that a local party committee would have to meet to be exempt from reporting their political activities, including

- (1) engage in "day-to-day operations for the benefit of the party as a whole,"
- (2) support only local and state candidates, not federal candidates,
- (3) not receive or spend more than \$1,000 on Federal elections,
- (4) set-up "separate organizations with segregated bank accounts" for any federal election activity, and
- (5) be "either independent of or subordinate to the state political party."

The Commission will also be publishing the following Request for Advisory Opinions concerning past campaign debts, and honoraria:

-----Campaign Debts: (a) Can a bank note signed in 1974 to repay a campaign debt, and personally guaranteed in 1974 by a political committee's chairman, be paid by the chairman in 1975 without being subject to the new contribution limits? (AOR #83, requested by the Dr. Bill Roy for Senator Committee, Topeka, Kansas).

(b) Would fundraising activities early in 1976 to pay off a 1974 campaign debt be charged against a Congressman's 1976 campaign limits? (AOR #82, requested by Rep. Fred Richmond (D. N.Y. - 14))

-----Honoraria: (a) Is the percentage fee charged to a Congressman by his speakers' bureau or agent included in the \$1,000 per engagement and \$15,000 annual honorarium limitation for members of Congress? (AOR #84, requested by Rep. Tom Railsback (R, Ill. - 19)).

(b) Does a "Human Rights" prize of \$5,000 and a medal, given to a Senator, fall within the definition of honoraria subject to limitation? (AOR #85, requested by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, D. Minn)