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## LOUISIANA CAMPAIGN FAILS TO FILE PRE-PRIMARY REPORT

WASHINGTON -- One Louisiana Senate committee has failed to meet the September 17 deadline for filing 12 day pre-primary reports of receipts and expenditures.

Provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act require that committees supporting candidates seeking U.S. Senate and House seats in the September 29 primary election in Louisiana file a report of all financial activity 12 days prior to the election.

As of 5 p.m. September 25, a report from the following committee had not been filed:

Senate....People for Cooper Committee.....Larry Napoleon Cooper...Republican

The report was to include financial activity occurring from July 1 through September 9. If sent certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by September 14. Otherwise, the due date was close-of-business September 17.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal election law, even though their names may appear on state primary ballots. If an individual and his or her campaign committee raise or spend less than \$5,000, the individual is not considered a "candidate" and neither the individual nor the committee has to register.

The Commission notified the committees of all candidates participating in the primary election of their potential filing requirements on August 24. Those committees which did not file on the due date were notified on September 18 that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published for failure to file if they did not respond within 4 business days.

The Commission publishes only the names of those committees which have been designated by candidates as their principal campaign committees. Under Amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, effective January 8, 1980, candidates no longer are required to file personal reports of receipts and expenditures. All such information is reported by authorized committees of the candidates.

Other political committees supporting House and Senate candidates in elections (those which are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign) also are required to file pre-primary and pre-runoff reports unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

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Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The Federal Election Campaign Act gives the Commission broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, including civil court enforcement and the imposition of civil penalties (\$5,000 for "any violation" and \$10,000 for any "knowing and willful" violation) for infractions of the law, including failure to file required disclosure reports.

The next report due for candidates from Louisiana will be the October quarterly report, due October 15, covering activity from September 10 through September 30. If a runoff election is held, campaign committees for candidates involved in the runoff must, in addition, file a pre-runoff report on October 25, covering activity occurring between October 15 and October 17.