

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: 202-219-4155 Toll Free 800-424-9530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MAY 12, 1995

CONTACT: KELLY HUFF
RON HARRIS
SHARON SNYDER
IAN STIRTON

FEC TO HOLD HEARING ON BUSH-QUAYLE '92 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission will hold a public hearing at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 17, at the request of the 1992 Bush-Quayle campaign. The hearing will address repayment issues contained in the agency's audits of the primary and general election committees.

The FEC's final audit reports, discussed at public meetings on December 8 and 14, and approved December 27, 1994, determined that the primary campaign had pre-funded certain general election-related expenses, thereby incurring non-qualified expenses repayable to the U.S. Treasury. In addition, the FEC found that the campaign had received matching funds in excess of its entitlement.

The general election campaign was found to have exceeded the overall spending limit of \$55.24 million by \$553,258.

If the Commission upholds its initial determination on the pre-funding issue and the general election committee reimburses the primary committee, it will have exceeded the overall spending limit. However, the compliance fund could legally reimburse the general election campaign for certain expenditures which, by law, are exempt from spending limits, thereby erasing the finding of excessive spending.

The committees are contesting certain audit findings and repayments totalling \$680,855 (\$485,631 for matching funds received in excess of entitlement and \$195,224 as the pro-rata share of non-qualified campaign expenses).

As a result of other audit findings not at issue in Wednesday's hearing, the primary campaign has already paid the U.S. Treasury \$141,801 for having received excessive contributions and \$19,194 for stale-dated checks; the general election and compliance fund committees have paid \$29,775 representing \$27,689 for stale-dated checks and \$2,086 for income earned.

FEC regulations provide publicly funded campaigns the opportunity to demonstrate that no repayment, or a lesser repayment, is appropriate by submitting additional materials and/or by addressing the Commission in an open public hearing.

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Committee representatives will be granted 30 minutes to present their arguments on the issues raised in their written response. Following that presentation, questions may be asked by individual Commissioners, the FEC General Counsel, and the FEC Audit Division.

The six FEC Commissioners will consider the committees' oral testimony as well as written responses in making their final decision.

The campaign's initial request for a hearing was granted March 24, 1995. Because the main issues in both audits are inextricably linked, and decisions on repayments for the primary committee will have a direct impact on the general election committee, the FEC agreed to a single presentation.

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