

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMISSION
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April 30, 1976

Honorable C. Gus Rys
12-98 Plaza Road
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures
Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws of 1973 as Amended
and Supplemented ("the Act")
Your Letter Dated March 23, 1976
Opinion # (0-05-76)

Dear Assemblyman Rys:

Your letter dated March 23, 1976 to the New Jersey
Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"),
including a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded
to me for reply.

The Commission does not have authority to advise generally
with respect to the election laws, since its authority is
limited to the area of its responsibility, which is the New
Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Disclosure
Act (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 and following). This Act forms only
a part of the election law of New Jersey, which is contained
in Title 19 of the New Jersey Statutes. The remainder of
the election law is under the jurisdiction of the Attorney
General of New Jersey.

The Act does not prescribe what uses of political funds
are lawful or unlawful and the Commission is not empowered
to express an opinion in this regard. The Commission has
taken the position that personal use of such funds is obviously
not appropriate and would in such case forward evidence of
such use to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Certain
other dispositions of such funds would not be challenged
by the Commission, such as the transfer of the funds to the
County or other political party committee of the candidate,
or the return of these funds pro rata to the contributors.
With respect to the proposed use of the money described in

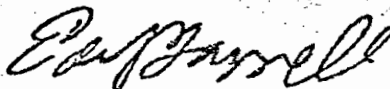
Honorable C. Gus Rys

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your letter, that use is in the view of the Commission analagous to use of the funds for a victory dinner or other similar type of celebration and is not regarded by the Commission as use of the funds which would require the Commission to forward the matter to the Attorney General for further action. Accordingly, assuming proper filing, the Commission would propose to take no further action in the event of your use of the funds for the purposes set forth in your letter. We have forwarded a copy of your letter and a copy of this letter to the office of the Attorney General.

Yours very truly,



Edward J. Farrell
Legal Counsel

EJF:ja

cc: Gregory Nagy, Esq.