

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT  
COMMISSION

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April 1, 1980

Mr. Thomas D. McKeon  
47 Devon Terrace  
Kearny, New Jersey 07032

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and  
Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws  
of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act")  
Your letter dated December 27, 1979  
Opinion #0-02-80

Dear Mr. McKeon:

Your letter dated December 27, 1979 to the New Jersey  
Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), in-  
cluding a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded  
to me for reply.

We are unable to provide a response to your request for  
opinion based on the facts set forth in your letter.

As a general proposition, the Commission recognizes the  
distinction in the Act between contributors on the one hand  
and political committees on the other. Generally speaking the  
act of an individual, or group of individuals or other organi-  
zation of making a cash contribution to a candidate, without  
more, does not require the filing of any document with the  
Commission by such contributor. Where an organization or a  
group of two or more persons take an active part in the campaign  
of a candidate, other than by cash contribution, the activities  
of that group will require the filing of pre-election and post-  
election reports with respect to the election with respect to  
which the group was active.

There are special rules for certain essentially political  
organizations (such as political action committees) and of  
political party committees, which may require reporting by those  
organizations of all activities, including cash contributions.  
The Act also imposes a requirement that independent groups acting  
for the election or defeat of a candidate file information with  
respect to their activities (other than cash contributions) with  
the Commission or with the candidate for filing with the Com-  
mission.

April 1, 1980

I am enclosing an earlier opinion of the Commission relating to the subject matter of your request. If this does not provide an answer to your question, perhaps you could provide the Commission with more specific facts, and we will attempt to provide a more specific response to your request.

Yours very truly,

Edward J. Farrell  
Legal Counsel

EJF:no

Enclosure - #0-41-76