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ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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OCT 20 1980

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October 16, 1980

Joel M. Steinberg  
The Citizens for Better Government  
24 Lackawanna Plaza  
Millburn, New Jersey 05041

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and  
Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws  
of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act")  
Your letter dated October 1, 1980  
Opinion #0-36-80

Dear Mr. Steinberg:

Your letter dated October 1, 1980, to the New Jersey  
Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), in-  
cluding a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded  
to me for reply.

With respect to your request numbered 1 on page 2 of  
your letter, the Commission is generally unwilling to make  
any extension of the date for certification beyond October  
15, 1980. The principal reason for this is that a basic  
purpose of the Act is the avoidance of the effect of large  
contributions, whether those large contributions come from  
an individual or a political committee or political action  
committee or other source. The purpose of permitting a designa-  
tion by a candidate prior to October 15 of a group acting  
on his or her behalf, is to allow to such candidate the use  
of funds legitimately raised on his or her behalf, the use  
of which funds might otherwise be lost to the campaign, in  
circumstances where fairness requires this, because of the  
enactment of a statute and regulations after campaign activity  
had in fact commenced.

Because of the foregoing, the answer to your question  
numbered 2 on page 2 of your letter is that only \$800.00 would  
be eligible for transfer to a candidate in the circumstances  
you describe. That contribution of \$800.00 would be eligible  
for match with public funds.

Mr. Joel M. Steinberg      Page 2

October 16, 1980

In order to avoid any unfairness arising out of the unavoidable delay in responding to your letter dated October 1, the Commission has extended the time within which the designations of principal campaign committee and certifications due on October 15, 1980 may be made by a candidate supported by you until 5 P.M. on Monday, October 27, 1980.

Very truly yours,

  
Edward J. Farrell  
Legal Counsel

EJF:no