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April 30, 1976

John A. Kroeger, Chairman Friends of Sheriff Fox Committee 12-14 North Beverwyck Road Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey 07034

> The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Re: Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act") Your Letter Dated March 15, 1976 Opinion #(0-13-76)

Dear Mr. Kroeger:

Your letter dated March 15, 1976 to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), including a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded to me for reply.

Nothing in the Act prohibits the solicitation or collection of funds in a non-election year to repay debts from a prior election as described in your letter of March 15, 1976. All contributions received or expenditures made in connection with conducting any testimonial affair must be reported in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-18). This generally will require a report not later than 20 days after the date of the testimonial affair or public solicitation, and such report must include all from the period covered by the previous report up through the date of the report for such testimonial affair.

The Commission is not authorized to express an opinion with respect to the use of unexpended political contributions or funds left over after a political campaign. The situation that you describe with respect to the "The Sheriff Fox Scholarship Fund" does not, however, appear to fit into that category.

That use of political contributions, in the context of your letter, would be a political expenditure on behalf of Sheriff Fox and would be required to be reported as such, either in connection with the reporting of the testimonial affair, or in the next series of pre-election and post-election reports filed on behalf of the candidate.

Yours very truly,

Edward J. Farrell

Legal Counsel

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