



State of New Jersey

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

SIDNEY GOLDMANN  
CHAIRMAN

NATIONAL STATE BANK BLDG., SUITE 1114  
28 W. STATE STREET  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608  
(609) 292-8700

LEWIS B. THURSTON, III  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOSEPHINE S. MARGETTS  
ANDREW C. AXTELL  
M. ROBERT DECOTIS

EDWARD J. FARRELL  
COUNSEL

May 11, 1981

Det. Lieut. Bob Herb  
717 Briarcliff  
Maywood, New Jersey 07607

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and  
Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws  
of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act")  
Your letter dated April 24, 1981  
Opinion #0-16-81

Dear Mr. Herb:

Your letter dated April 24, 1981, to the New Jersey  
Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"),  
including a request for advisory opinion, has been for-  
warded 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 Ex-  
penditure Disclosure Act (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1, et seq).  
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.

There is nothing in the Act which prohibits any  
person, including a journalist, from writing a newspaper  
column or making any other expression of the ideas and  
feelings of the author. There is nothing in the Act  
which requires any candidate or other person to provide  
equal time.

Expenditures on behalf of a candidate are required  
to be reported in accordance with the reporting pro-  
visions of the Act. Nothing in the materials which you

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forwarded to us suggest that any of these expenditures were paid advertisements or otherwise expenditures on behalf of a candidate. With respect to the newspapers, there is an exception in the Act which provides generally that the Act shall not apply to any bona fide newspaper, magazine, radio or television station or other bona fide news medium disseminating political information, advertising, in the normal course of its business. Accordingly, the Commission would not propose to take any further action on the basis of your letter.

Yours very truly,



Edward J. Farrell  
General Counsel

EJF:no