



# NEWS RELEASE

*N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission*

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For Release: IMMEDIATELY  
FEBRUARY 23, 1983

The Election Law Enforcement Commission has filed a complaint against Save the School Fund, Inc., a political committee which was active in the defeat of the Riparian Lands Constitutional Amendment which was rejected by the voters in the 1982 general election.

The complaint alleges that the Save the School Fund failed to timely report the existence of outstanding obligations prior to the November 2, 1982 election. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the committee's 25 day pre-election report omitted the existence of an obligation incurred to Merritt Ierley of Teaneck, New Jersey, for research and consulting in the amount of \$5,666.55 and also omitted an obligation owed to Keyes, Martin and Company, Springfield, New Jersey, for public relations, printing, advertising and distribution of campaign literature in the amount of \$8,000. The complaint further alleges that these obligations were incurred on or before October 7, 1982 - the cutoff date for reporting financial activity as part of the 25 day pre-election report.

The complaint also alleges that Save the School Fund failed to timely report outstanding obligations as part of its 7 day pre-election report. Specifically, the complaint alleges that an outstanding obligation owed Merritt Ierley in the amount of \$7,560.85 and an obligation to Keyes, Martin and Company in the amount of \$85,591 were omitted from the 7 day report despite the fact that the obligations arose

Press Release  
February 23, 1983  
Page Two

prior to October 25, 1982 - the cutoff date for reporting financial activity on the 7 day pre-election report.

The obligations in question were disclosed by Save the School Fund in a report filed with the Commission on November 29, 1982 - 27 days following the general election.

The Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act requires that an expenditure be reported as of the date the obligation for the expenditure was incurred. The Commission's Executive Director, Scott A. Weiner, stated that "the initiation of the complaint reflects the Commission's concern about the apparent failure of Save the School Fund to comply fully with the requirements of the Reporting Act thereby depriving the public of pre-election disclosure of outstanding obligations for expenditures in excess of \$100,000.

The respondent will have a period of 20 days within which an answer may be filed with the Commission. Following the filing of an answer, a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law will be conducted unless specifically waived by the respondent. The Commission is authorized by statute to impose fines of not more than \$1,000 for the first offense and not more than \$2,000 for the second and each subsequent offense.

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