



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: FREDERICK M. HERRMANN, Ph.D. *FMH*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(609) 292-8700

FOR RELEASE:
Immediately
November 24, 1987

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission has approved a proposal for a statutory change that would require PAC's and party committees to identify their political or economic affiliation in their titles.

Frederick M. Herrmann, Executive Director of the Commission, said that the lack of such a requirement makes it difficult to identify the nature of many PAC's filing with ELEC as well as to determine their political or economic affiliation.

"This tightening of the campaign financial statutes," said Herrmann "would enhance disclosure. Not only would the reports indicate who contributed to the PAC and to whom the PAC in turn contributed, but also would clearly set forth its identity."

Herrmann said that the Commission is asking the Legislature to pass legislation that would help contributors identify the purposes of PACs and certain party committees that solicit funds.

He said that this legislation would help candidates identify the PACs which contribute to them and also help the public and the press determine which special interests are promoted by these groups.

- more -

"A few states have adopted legislation requiring more complete political committee name identification," said Herrmann, "it's important now for New Jersey to do so."

California, Montana and North Carolina have adopted statutes requiring political committee name identification.

According to Herrmann, the Commission believes that legislation requiring PAC's to identify themselves in their name should include:

- 1) a requirement that PAC's file registration statements with the Commission which identify sponsorship and political or economic affiliation;
- 2) a provision giving the Commission authority to approve all titles;
- 3) a requirement that PAC's use their titles on all Commission reports, in all fundraising activity, in contributions made to candidates, political committees or to other PAC's, and on all identification statements appearing on media advertisements paid for by the committee; and
- 4) a requirement that registration statements include the name of a group's treasurer and its designation of bank account.

"This proposal will maximize disclosure without having any chilling effect whatsoever over the political and electoral processes," said Herrmann. "It will not inhibit fundraising or the ability of candidates to communicate their message to the voters, but it will enhance the public's knowledge of who the financial players in the political game are."

###