



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rosemary C. Smith
Associate General Counsel *MWD*

FROM: Office of the Commission Secretary

DATE: April 14, 2004

SUBJECT: *Ex Parte* Communications
Re: Political Committee Status Rulemaking

Attached are three letters received by Commissioner Thomas regarding "527" organizations.

cc: Commissioners
Staff Director
General Counsel
Press Office
Public Disclosure

Attachment




FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT

2004 APR 14 A 9:34

MEMORANDUM

TO: MARY DOVE
COMMISSION SECRETARY

FROM: SCOTT E. THOMAS
COMMISSIONER 

SUBJECT: EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS
RE. POLITICAL COMMITTEE STATUS RULEMAKING

DATE: APRIL 13, 2004

I received the attached letters regarding "527" organizations from:

- 1) Robert Crook
- 2) Patricia A. Korb
- 3) Sarmed A. Abdullah, M.D.



April 7, 2004

2320 K Street Apt. B
Sacramento, CA 95816

Federal Election Commission
Attn.: Scott E. Thomas
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Commissioner Thomas:

I am writing you because I am concerned about the attempts of President Bush's re-election team to restrict the First Amendment rights of the so-called "527s."

I am wondering how far President Bush's re-election team would go. Would *any* television commercial produced by *anyone* that could even *conceivably* be interpreted as damaging to President Bush's re-election campaign and/or helpful to his opponent's campaign be deemed a violation of campaign finance laws? Could *no one* produce a television commercial on *any* topic on which the Bush administration has been considered weak, such as the environment, the economy or education, even if no political candidate's name were mentioned?

President Bush's re-election team is far more interested in silencing the president's critics and stifling open political debate than it is interested in fair elections practices.

The First Amendment *must* trump campaign finance laws. Otherwise, our democracy will deteriorate even further than it already has.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Crook". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

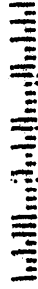
Robert Crook
A United States citizen and voter

ROBERT DALE CROOK
2320 K ST., APT. B
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816



Federal Election Commission
Attn.: Scott E. Thomas
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

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APR 13 A 9 07



2669 Cranlyn Road
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

April 8, 2004

Bradley A. Smith
Ellen L. Weintraub
David M. Mason
Danny L. McDonald
Scott E. Thomas
Michael E. Toner
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear FEC Commissioners:

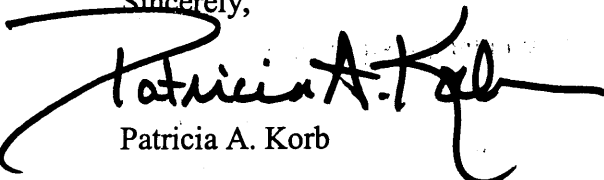
I am a grassroots volunteer, and I am very concerned about the illegal spending of hundreds of millions of dollars in unregulated soft money by the so-called "527" organizations to affect this year's presidential election.

I strongly urge the FEC to move forward quickly with this rule making on "527" groups to prevent more of this illegal money from being spent in this year's federal elections.

These groups have an obvious overriding purpose of influencing the outcome of the 2004 Presidential Congressional elections yet they are not complying with the federal campaign finance laws. The Commission must make it clear to these groups that they are required by law to immediately register as federal political committees and obey the same laws as everyone else.

The FEC needs to its job and properly enforce the law already on the books; a law that was specifically amended to keep soft money out of federal elections.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Korb

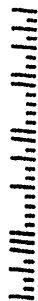
Patricia A. Korb
2669 Cranlyn Road
Shaker Hts., OH 44122



RECEIVED
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2004 APR 12 A 11:16

Scott E. Thomas
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463



From: Sarmed A. Abdullah, M.D.
1027 Pagel Court
Johnson City, Tennessee 37604

Date : April/06/2004

Dear FEC Commissioners,


I am a grassroots volunteer and I am very concerned about the illegal spending of hundreds of millions of dollars in unregulated soft money by so-called "527" organizations (including but not limited to the so called George Soro's finance) to effect this year's presidential election.

I strongly urge the FEC to move forward quickly with its rulemaking on "527 groups" to prevent more of this illegal money from being spent in this year's federal elections.

These groups have an obvious, overriding purpose of influencing the outcome of the 2004 presidential and congressional elections; yet they are not complying with federal campaign finance laws. The Commission must make clear to these groups that they are required under the law to immediately register as federal political committees and obey the same laws as everyone else.

The FEC needs to do its job and properly enforce the law already on the books; a law that was specifically amended to keep soft money out of federal elections.

Sincerely,


Sarmed A. Abdullah, M.D.

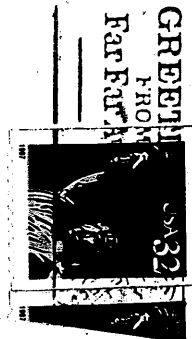
Cc: Mr. Marc Racicot, Chairman
Bush-Cheney '04

Cc : The Honorable Bradley A. Smith, FEC Chairman
The Honorable Ellen L. Weintraub, FEC Vice Chairman
The Honorable David M. Mason
The Honorable Danny L. McDonald
The Honorable Scott E. Thomas
The Honorable Michael E. Toner

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2004 APR 13 A 9 05

Sarheed A. Abdullah, M.D.
1027 Pagel Court
Johnson City, Tennessee 37604



The Honorable Scott E. Thomas
The Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

