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382-4733FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
GOAL: VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

OLEAN, N.Y. JULY 1 - "A goal of the new Federal Election Commission is to seek voluntary compliance with the law by political candidates and committees," FEC Commissioner Joan D. Aikens said today.

In an address tonight to the closing banquet of the New York State Elections Commissioners convention, Aikens said, "Our goal at the FEC is to make the federal election process as simplified and as orderly as possible, so candidates and committees will understand what is required to fully comply with the federal campaign financing law."

The Federal Election Commission was created by the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974 to supervise and enforce new limits on contributions to federal campaigns, ceilings on federal candidate and political committee spending, and public financing for Presidential primary and general elections. The six-member independent commission was sworn in on April 14 this year.

Aikens cited specific functions of the new Commission:

- (1) to serve as a public depository for political disclosure;
- (2) to oversee and administer public financing of Presidential campaigns;
- (3) to seek voluntary compliance with Federal election financing laws;
- (4) to serve as an investigative body initiating action against violators who refuse compliance with these laws;
- (5) to audit periodical reports from candidates and committees.

Aikens said, "Another important goal of the Commission is to work to restore the public confidence in the political system. With the passage of the 1974 amendments, and the establishing of the Commission, Congress has made a most significant move to recognize and begin to redress an apparent lack of public confidence in politics and government at all levels. By fair and judicious enforcement of this reform legislation, the FEC will hopefully re-instill faith in the effectiveness and efficiency of public officials and the Democratic system of government," she said.