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NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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FEC GOAL: CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION IN ELECTORAL PROCESS

WASHINGTON - SEPTEMBER 24 - "A major goal of the Federal Election Commission is to make federal campaign finance laws understandable by the average campaign worker," FEC Chairman Thomas B. Curtis said today.

In a luncheon address at the National Press Club, Curtis listed four "major goals of the FEC:"

- - - - "(1) Providing simplified advance understanding of the complex campaign finance laws by all candidates, political committees, and campaign workers;
- - - - (2) helping to bring about voluntary compliance of the campaign finance laws by everyone;
- - - - (3) encouraging more people to actively participate in political campaigns and activity; and
- - - - (4) encouraging more citizens to vote in all elections."

Curtis said, "An indication of the enormous challenge facing the FEC in meeting these goals is the sheer volume of requests for clarification of the law by Members of Congress who wrote it. We accept the challenge to provide clear and comprehensive information to the public by the end of the year through our opinions, guidelines and regulations. In fact next week, we will be publishing for public comment a comprehensive set of proposed regulations concerning all the reporting and disclosure sections of Title II of the law," he said.

He said, "The Commissioners are all aware of the importance of making this campaign finance law understandable by everyone as soon as possible. Our experience has already shown that candidates and committees want to comply with the law and want to know the rules so that they can comply. By emphasizing voluntary compliance, we want to cut-down on complaint actions and avoid having to throw the book at anyone. By bringing about greater public understanding of the law, the Commission wants to encourage citizens to want to participate in our electoral process," he said.

Curtis said, "The open meeting policy of the FEC is another way we can help the public understand the campaign finance law. We want to work closely with Congress, with all candidates, with the news media, and with the general public in carrying out our complex tasks," he said.