

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463

RELEASE: ON RECEIPT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1976

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FEC REQUIRES COMMITTEES
TO REPORT AFFILIATIONS

WASHINGTON - September 20 - The Federal Election Commission has begun a special inquiry into which political committees are subject to a single combined contribution limit.

This weekend, the FEC sent letters to the treasurers of all non-party related political committees registered with the Commission, asking them to report their committee affiliations.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended in 1974 and 1976, states that "all contributions made by political committees established, or financed or maintained or controlled by any corporation, labor organization, or any other person...shall be considered to have been made by a single political committee."

FEC Chairman Vernon Thomson said, "The Commission wants to identify which committees are not aware that they are subject to the single contribution limit in order to help these committees avoid improper contributions. In the 1976 Amendments, Congress intended that all committees set up by the same corporation, union, or other group, be restricted to a single combined contribution limit. The letter sent to committee treasurers will help identify committee affiliations subject to this joint contribution limit."

The letter states, "With passage of the new 1976 Amendments, (identification of committee affiliations) became essential to determining which and how many political committees are subject to the restrictions in contributions to federal candidates, and to maintaining the centralized index required by law."

The letter informs treasurers that an "affiliated committee" is "generally another political committee which shares with the registering political committee the same organization at the top of its structure."

Committees are limited to a \$1,000 contribution per candidate per election or to \$5,000 per candidate per election for specially defined "multi-candidate" committees.