

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC FILES SUIT AGAINST FIVE CANDIDATES

WASHINGTON - OCTOBER 15 - The Federal Election Commission revealed today that it has this week filed civil suits in four United States District Courts to compel five federal candidates to comply with reporting requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

In separate suits involving four candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and one candidate for the U.S. Senate, the FEC asked the District Courts to order each candidate to designate a principal campaign committee, to file the July 10, 1976, quarterly report and subsequent quarterly reports, and to file the report required 10-day prior to a recent primary election. The FEC also asked the courts to assess a penalty, of not more than \$5,000 against each candidate "for failing and refusing to comply with [these] requirements of the Act."

The following are the candidates, the Congressional District/State, the date of the candidate's primary election, and the U.S. District Court in which the suits were filed, (alphabetically by state):

Isaac Hood (1st District - Michigan) ...
(August 3, 1976) ... (Eastern District Court, Michigan)

William Rostron (16th District - Michigan) ...
(August 3, 1976) ... (Eastern District Court, Michigan)

Joel Alexander Saliterman (3rd District - Minnesota) ...
(September 14, 1976) ... (Minnesota District Court)

Rowena M. VonWolff (U.S. Senate - Nevada) ...
(September 14, 1976) ... (Nevada District Court)

John Adams (1st District - New Hampshire) ...
(September 14, 1976) ... (New Hampshire District Court)

The Commission stated in its court complaints that prior to filing civil suit, it had sent two notices to each candidate concerning the failure to designate a principal campaign committee, and also had notified each candidate twice concerning the failure to file the pre-primary report.

Subsequent to the primary election, the FEC also published each candidate's name publicly, as required by the statute, as having failed to file the pre-election report.

In the cases involving an August 3 primary (Hood and Rostron), the FEC sent the principal campaign committee designation notices on September 2 and 20, sent the pre-election report filing notices on July 27 and 30, and published the non-filer list on September 1.

In the cases involving a September 14 primary (Saliterman, VonWolff and Adams), the FEC sent the principal campaign committee designation notices on August 12 and September 3, sent the pre-election report filing notices on September 8 and 10, and published the non-filer list on September 23.

In each case, under FEC compliance procedures, the first notice informed the candidate that the Commission has found "reason to believe" a violation of the Act may have occurred, and the second notice informed the candidate that the Commission has found "reasonable cause to believe" a violation of the Act may have occurred. Prior to filing suit, the Commission voted to find "probable cause" to believe a violation of the Act may have occurred.