

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC FILES SUIT AGAINST SIX CANDIDATES

WASHINGTON - March 30 - The Federal Election Commission today revealed that it has filed civil suits in six United States District Courts to compel six Federal candidates to comply with the reporting requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

In separate suits involving six candidates for the House of Representatives, the FEC has asked the District Courts to order three candidates to designate a "principal campaign committee", one candidate to file required quarterly reports, six candidates to file the reports required 10 days prior to the November 2 general election, and 30 days after the general election, and, in two of the cases, to also file the January 31 report summarizing financial transactions through December 31, 1976.

The FEC also asked the courts to assess a penalty of not more than \$5,000 against the candidates for "failing and refusing to comply with the Act."

The following are the candidates, their district/state, their political party, and the U.S. District Court in which the suits were filed, (alphabetically, by state):

Billy Dorsey.....	6th Dist. - Alabama
Natl Democratic Party.....	(Northern District of Alabama)
Newell Ward.....	7th Dist. - Illinois
Republican.....	(Northern District of Illinois)
James Burns.....	Rep. at Large - Nevada
Libertarian.....	(District of Nevada)
Seth Morgan.....	1st Dist. - New York
Conservative.....	(Eastern District of New York)
Donald Parker.....	5th Dist. - Oklahoma
Independent.....	(Western District of Oklahoma)
Jesse Woods.....	2nd Dist. - Pennsylvania
Republican.....	(Eastern District of Pennsylvania)

The Commission stated in its court complaints that prior to filing suits it had sent at least two notices to each candidate concerning the failure to file the quarterly reports, and the pre- and post-election reports, and also concerning the failure to designate a "principal campaign committee."

In the case of Dorsey, the FEC sent a "principal campaign committee" designation notice on October 21, 1976, notices about the 10-day pre-election report on October 25 and 27, and notices about the 30-day post-election report on December 10 and 20. The FEC complaint also cited Dorsey for failure to file the required January 31 report.

In the case of Ward, the FEC sent "principal campaign committee" designation notices on September 27 and 30 and October 8 and 22, notices about the 10-day pre-election report on October 25 and 27, and notices about the 30-day post-election report on December 10 and 20.

In the case of Burns, the FEC sent "principal campaign committee" designation notices on September 4, 25 and 30, and notices about the 10-day pre-election report on October 25 and 27.

In the case of Morgan, the FEC sent notices about the required 10-day pre-election report on October 25 and 27, and also sent notices concerning the 30-day post election report on December 10 and 20.

In the case of Parker, the FEC sent notices concerning the 10-day pre-election report on October 25 and 27, and notices about the 30-day post-election report on December 10 and 20.

In the case of Woods, the FEC sent notices concerning the 10-day pre-election report on October 26 and 28, and notices about the 30-day post-election report on December 10 and 20. The FEC complaint also cites Woods' failure to file required quarterly reports and the January 31 end-of-the-year report.

In each case, under FEC compliance procedures, the first notice informed the candidate that the Commission found "reason to believe" a violation of the Act may have occurred, and the second notice informed the candidate the Commission 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.