

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC FILES SUIT
AGAINST CANDIDATE

WASHINGTON - June 28 - The Federal Election Commission today revealed that it has filed a civil suit in United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts to compel Joseph M. O'Laughlin to comply with the reporting requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

O'Laughlin was an Independent candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, 9th District, Massachusetts, on the general election ballot November 2, 1976.

In its suit, the FEC ordered O'Laughlin to designate a "principal campaign committee", and to file the report required 10 days prior to the November 2 general election, and the report required 30 days after the general election.

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

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

In O'Laughlin's case, the FEC sent "principal campaign committee" designation notices on October 6, and October 14, 1976. The FEC sent 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, 1976.

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 that 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.

Previously, the Commission has filed suit against 29 Federal candidates for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of the Act.