

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC FILES SUIT AGAINST TWO CANDIDATES

WASHINGTON - August 2 - The Federal Election Commission today revealed that it has filed civil suits in two United States District Courts to compel two Federal candidates to comply with the reporting requirements of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

In separate suits involving two candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, the FEC has asked the District Courts to order both candidates to file the report required thirty days after the November 2 general election, and one candidate to designate the officers of his principal campaign committee.

The FEC has 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 districts, their political party, and the U.S. District Court in which the suits were filed:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| John Elden Tipton | 7th Dist. - Indiana |
| Democratic | (Southern District, Indiana) |
| Anthony Curry | 21st Dist. - Ohio |
| Independent | (Northern District, Ohio) |

The Commission stated in its court complaints that prior to filing civil suits it had sent at least two notices to each candidate concerning the failure to file the thirty-day post-election report, and also concerning the failure to designate officers of the candidate's principal campaign committee.

After the general election, on February 17, the FEC published both candidates' names publicly, as required by the statute, as having failed to file the post-general election report.

In the case of Tipton, the FEC sent notices about the required December 2 post-election report on December 10 and 20, 1976. Tipton was also cited in the court suit for failure to designate the chairman and treasurer of his principal campaign committee.

In the case of Curry, the FEC sent notices about the required December 2 post-election report on December 10 and 20, 1976.

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 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.