

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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RELEASE: ON RECEIPT

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FEC RELEASES LIST OF "NON-FILERS"
IN CALIFORNIA SPECIAL PRIMARY

WASHINGTON - March 3, 1979 - The Federal Election Commission today published the name of one federal candidate on the ballot for the March 6, 1979, special primary election in California who personally, or whose "principal campaign committee" failed to file the required 10-day pre-election report of campaign finances. It is as follows:
(By District)

<u>District</u>	<u>Name of Candidate</u>	<u>Political Party</u>	<u>Type of Report</u>
11.....	Wilson G. Branch.....	Peace and Freedom...	Prin. Cmpgn. Cmte./Candidate Personal

In addition to publishing the names of non-filers, the FEC has the authority to undertake further enforcement action under the statute, including civil court enforcement and imposition of civil penalties (\$5,000 for "any violation" and \$10,000 for a "knowing and willful violation").

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended in 1974 and 1976, states that "It shall be the duty of the Commission to...prepare and publish from time to time special reports listing those candidates...for whom...reports were not filed as so required."

Federal candidates and committees must file a "pre-election report" 10 days before each election, covering their financial transactions up to 15 days before the election. Under FEC procedures, three notices are sent to the candidates and committees, reminding them of their reporting obligations, and urging compliance. If a report is not filed following these notices, the names of all "non-filers" are made public.

Prior notice is the first reminder, sent on a routine basis prior to the filing date to all candidates whose names are on the ballot, as provided by State officials and confirmed by lists with the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate. This notice simply reminds candidates and committees of their required 10-day pre- and 30-day post-election reports, and the appropriate filing dates.

The second notice is sent only to candidates and committees whose reports have not been received 8 days before the election, and states that "this apparent failure...gives the Commission 'reason to believe' that (the candidate or committee) is in violation of the reporting requirements.

The third notice is sent only to candidates and committees whose reports are not filed 6 days before the election, and states that "continued failure to file...gives the Commission 'reasonable cause to believe'" that they are in violation of the reporting requirements...and that "failure to respond immediately will result in the publication of your name on a list of non-filers and referral to our Office of General Counsel which may result in civil penalties."

When a candidate or committee continues to fail to file after receiving the "prior notice" reminder, and the "reason to believe" and "reasonable cause to believe" notices, the Commission publishes the names of the candidate and/or his committee on a list of non-filers.