

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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WASHINGTON -- Funding in fiscal year 1983 to enable the Federal Election Commission to "meaningfully enforce the laws and assure complete public disclosure of information," was requested today in a hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government.

The \$9,880,000 request, which is a \$666,000 reduction from a previous request, was supported in testimony by FEC Chairman Frank P. Reiche, Vice Chairman Danny L. McDonald and Commissioner Joan D. Aikens. They told the Task Force, "The Reagan Administration agreed that more resources were needed by the Commission, and that figure was submitted to Congress as part of the President's FY 1983 budget."

"What we are requesting today, when adjusted for inflation, is about the same as the \$4.7 million devoted to administer the election laws in 1973 when there was little disclosure, no regulations or advisory opinions and enforcement was almost totally lacking," Commissioner McDonald said.

The breadth of Commission activity in the 1982 and 1984 elections will depend in large part on what happens this fiscal year, the Commission advised the Task Force. Since the 1982 general election falls in the first month of the 1983 fiscal year, FEC attention will focus on activities incidental to contests for nearly 500 House and Senate seats.

Later in the fiscal year, increased FEC resources will be directed toward the 1984 elections because presidential candidates will be eligible in 1983 to submit matching fund requests for Commission certification.

Commissioner McDonald also testified in support of a FEC request for \$183,900 in supplemental FY 1982 funding. "If a pay supplemental is not provided, the Commission will run out of money before the end of the fiscal year and will face the prospect of furloughing the entire staff at a time when we should be increasing our activity to deal with the 1982 Congressional primaries and general election," he said.