

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON -- A program to assist educators and students studying Federal elections has been announced by the Federal Election Commission to coincide with recognition of National Education Week. An independent agency, the FEC has sole jurisdiction over campaign finance activities related to Federal elections.

Among the educational efforts being undertaken by the Commission are:

- A seminar at the fall conference of the National Association of Legislative and Political Specialists in Education, in Washington November 16 through 17;

- A series of presentations to the annual conferences of the Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Supervisors and College Educators and to the Virginia Social Studies Teachers combined with visits to Virginia colleges and high schools;

- Newly-developed educational materials on the study of Federal elections to be available at the annual conference of the Council of State Social Studies Specialists meeting in Boston November 23 through 24.

New educational materials which have been developed recently by the Federal Election Commission include:

- A series of answers to questions asked by researchers about campaign finance information and statistics, published in the August 1982 issue of the FEC monthly newsletter, the RECORD;

- Speakers for class visits to the Commission and/or seminars to explain the election law and the Commission's research facilities;

- A slide program with a narrative tape cassette describing methods and sources of candidate support;

- A guidebook, Voter Information and Education Programs, outlining suggested curriculum programs on the electoral process for various grade levels.

By using FEC resources, high school teachers and college educators are able to do research or make assignments relevant to a particular Congressional district or state, or focus on a political action committee representing a specific interest group. Students may learn how to obtain election-related government documents, use computer-generated information, analyze campaign finance statistics, and compare and contrast political campaigns.

Educators interested in obtaining copies of these materials or using the FEC research facilities may contact its Office of Public Communications at 202/523-4068 or call toll free 800/424-9530.