

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALABAMA - FEC PROGRAM KICKS OFF MARCH 1

WASHINGTON - Friday, March 1, is kick-off day at the Alabama Secretary of State's office for the new computerized Federal campaign finance disclosure system between the Federal Election Commission and Alabama.

Reporters and editors will be given a demonstration of the system at 9:30 a.m., Friday. Representatives of political party committees, other political committees, consultants and others involved in federal political activities are being invited to a demonstration at 11:30 a.m. Both demonstrations will be at the Office of Secretary of State Don Siegelman.

Prior to each demonstration period, FEC Chairman John Warren McGarry and Mr. Siegelman will explain the agreement whereby Alabama became one of six states participating in the Commission's national program to share its automated disclosure data base with state elections offices. Chairman McGarry also will respond to questions relating to the test program and to other of the FEC's activities.

Demonstration of the system will be by Kent Cooper, who heads the Commission's Public Disclosure Division, and Helen Moore, Administrator of Elections in the Secretary of State's office, who will supervise the state system.

The Commission's efforts are to broaden public access to federal election finance information which is centralized in its Washington public disclosure facilities. Test states will follow basic disclosure procedures established by the FEC, but the Secretary of State's Office will set its own standards on public access to information. Other states participating are California, Massachusetts, Colorado, Georgia, Washington and Illinois.

Among computer data available to the pilot test offices will be: 1) An index which provides a cross reference to all records including receipts and disbursements relating to individual candidates; 2) An index which includes the name of each political committee, its FEC identification number, a list of each document filed, total gross receipts and disbursements; 3) An index which includes for each political committee its connected organization, a notation if it is "qualified" as a multicandidate committee, and all Federal candidates supported, together with aggregate contributions to or expenditures on behalf of or against each candidate.

Additional information through computer printouts will be made available to each of the test offices by the FEC.
