

8 5 0 8 0 1 0 3 0 2 9

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Press Office  
1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463  
Phone: Local 523-4065 Toll Free 800-424-9530



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 16, 1985

CONTACT: FRED EILAND  
SHARON SNYDER  
DEBORAH STUTZ

## FEC SENDS CONGRESS 24 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN ELECTION LAWS

WASHINGTON — The Federal Election Commission today sent 24 proposals to Congress suggesting need for changes in the election law.

Legislative recommendations to Congress and the President are required by law, and are made annually by the FEC based on its experience in administering election laws. They suggest areas of the statute which Congress may wish to review for modification or revision.

Among the 24 proposals submitted this year are five aimed at enhancing public disclosure and at reducing some of the bookkeeping requirements for campaigns and political committees.

They include:

To require House and Senate campaigns to report their financial activity for the entire campaign cycle.

—The FEC noted that the current practice of reporting activity on a calendar year basis causes difficulties for the public in determining what was actually raised and spent on campaigns spanning more than one year.

To require campaigns to file their reports earlier in a month.

—Citing increasing public demand for more timely information, the FEC recommended earlier reporting dates following the end of a reporting period. This is particularly so in Presidential campaigns which report on a monthly basis with reports due on the 20th day of the following month, often making campaign finance information out-of-date with actual events.

To change contribution limits so that their application would be to a campaign cycle, rather than to individual primary, general, special, or run-off elections.

—As suggested by the FEC, this would have the effect of reducing burdensome recordkeeping requirements for committees, while maintaining current contribution limitations.

The Commission also asked Congress to clarify the statutory requirement to report operating expenses. The question frequently arises whether, under the law, it is sufficient for a committee to report only initial payments to contractors, vendors, etc., or whether disclosure also must include secondary payments made to sub-contractors, agents, and others, who then might be required to report their records to the political committee or might cause the original filing committee to have to file lengthy amendments.

With one member dissenting, the Commission also asked the Congress for the power to initiate immediate civil suit for injunctive relief when circumstances involve substantial violations of law.

-more-