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RHODE ISLAND--FEC PROGRAM
KICKS OFF MONDAY, MAY 13

WASHINGTON - Monday, May 13, is kick-off day at Secretary of State Susan L. Farmer's office for a new computerized Federal campaign finance disclosure system between the Federal Election Commission and the State of Rhode Island.

A demonstration of the system will be held at 11 a.m. for reporters, representatives of political party committees and other political committees, consultants and others involved in Federal political activities. This will be at the State Library, which is part of Secretary of State Farmer's office.

Prior to the demonstration, FEC Chairman John Warren McGarry of Massachusetts and Mrs. Farmer will explain the agreement whereby Rhode Island became one of seven states participating in the Commission's national program to share its automated disclosure data base with state election offices.

Demonstration of the system will be by Kent Cooper, who heads the FEC's Public Disclosure Division, and Beth Perry, State Librarian, 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 Alabama, Colorado, California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts and Washington.

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.

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