

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: Local 376-3155 Toll Free 800-424-9530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1989

CONTACT: FRED EILAND
SHARON SNYDER
SCOTT MOXLEY

FEC CHAIRMAN CALLS COMMON CAUSE STUDY RECKLESS, CHEAP SHOT

WASHINGTON -- The Chairman of the Federal Election Commission today said a lobbying group's cry for the abolishment of the Commission is "unwarranted and reckless."

"Apparently, this group's frustration with campaign finance laws enacted by Congress is inappropriately being vented on the FEC - whose job it is to enforce federal election laws, not rewrite them exactly as this lobbying group wishes," said Chairman Danny McDonald.

"Their study appears to deliberately distort the Commission's enforcement record. In short - it's a cheap shot that does a disservice to the process. Common Cause's action is unwarranted and reckless. Even they admit they're being drastic," McDonald said.

"Unfortunately, the Common Cause allegation that the law is unenforced is irresponsible. By erroneously telling political committees that their infractions will not be prosecuted, Common Cause is encouraging unlawful behavior. This, in turn, will increase the Commission's already burdensome workload," said McDonald, who noted that the FEC has negotiated close to a half million dollars in civil penalties against law violators in the past year.

"The FEC takes it's responsibility to administer and enforce federal election laws very seriously and prides itself on insuring media and public awareness of the financial activities of candidates, parties and political action committees," he said.

McDonald noted that in 1988 the FEC reviewed the activities of more than 8,890 federal candidates, party and political action committees; responded to more than 138,000 information requests from citizens and reporters; and opened 234 enforcement actions. The Commission has administered the distribution of \$178 million in public funds in connection with the 1988 Presidential elections.

###

3
3
4
4
0
2
0
8
0
9
9