

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEC RELEASES TWO COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission has made public its final action on two matters previously under review (MURs). This release contains only summary information. Closed files should be thoroughly read for details, including the FEC's legal analysis of the case. (Please see footnote at the end of this release.) Closed MUR files are available in the Public Records Office. They are as follows:

MUR NO.

1. MUR 3892/PRE-MUR 298

RESPONDENTS: (a) John D. Murchinson (TX)
(b) Bush - Quayle '92 Primary Committee,
J. Stanley Huckaby, treasurer (VA)
COMPLAINANT: Ellen S. Miller, Executive Director
Center for Responsive Politics (DC)
SUBJECT: Exceeding the \$25,000 contribution limit,
excessive contributions
DISPOSITION: (a) Conciliation Agreement \$28,000 civil penalty*
[re: exceeding the annual \$25,000 contribution
limit in 1992 and 1993]
No reason to believe* [re: excessive contributions]
(b) No reason to believe* [re: excessive contributions]

2. MUR 3959

RESPONDENTS: (a) Americans for Harkin, Inc., Larry Hawkins,
treasurer (DC)
(b) David E. Johnson (DC)
COMPLAINANT: FEC Initiated (Audit)
SUBJECT: Corporate contributions, excessive contributions
DISPOSITION: (a) Reason to believe, but take no further action*
[re: corporate contributions, excessive
contributions]
(b) Reason to believe, but take no further action*
[re: excessive contributions]

*There are four administrative stages to the FEC enforcement process:

1. Receipt of proper complaint
2. "Reason to believe" stage
3. "Probable cause" stage
4. Conciliation stage

It takes the votes of at least four of the six Commissioners to take any action. The FEC can close a case at any point after reviewing a complaint. If a violation is found and conciliation cannot be reached, then the FEC can institute a civil court action against a respondent.