



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON D C 20463

June 23, 1995

MEDIA ADVISORY

With 1996 election fundraising heating up, preparation is key for researching campaign finance disclosure reports. Second quarter reports from presidential campaigns are due July 15; Congressional campaigns will be filing mid-year reports July 31.

The FEC Public Records Office is a "storefront operation," open 9-5 Monday-Friday, with extended public hours offered during reporting periods. There, reporters can review campaign finance reports filed by presidential and congressional campaigns, as well as PACs and political party reports, which include soft money. Reports filed from 1972 to the present are available on microfilm, with additional paper copies for current Congressional campaigns.

There has been some confusion over how to obtain access to FEC records. Time and cost are two factors you should consider.

--OPEN AN ACCOUNT--

For planning purposes, you should consider whether you will want to obtain actual copies of reports filed or merely computer summary information and contributor data - expenditures are not computerized. Some reports are massive in size and copies cannot be obtained in a few hours. Also, there are photocopy charges. We recommend establishing an account with the Public Records Office to alleviate the need for reporters or researchers to have a check or the correct amount of cash in hand.

An account may be opened with as little as \$25. Charges are then made against your account each time you place an order for documents or make copies in the office. Reports may be ordered by mail or by phone, or you may place a standing request to copy all reports filed by a particular committee. The telephone number for the Public Records Office is (202)219-4155, or toll-free (800)424-9530.

If you wish Public Records staff to copy reports for you, prepayment is required. The charges are \$.05 per page and \$4.50 research cost for each 100 pages (with the first 100 pages free of research charge; standard turn-around time is 7-10 working days). If you need copies more quickly, you can expedite the process by sending someone to photocopy, and charging the costs to your account.

Celebrating the Commission's 20th Anniversary

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW
DEDICATED TO KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

-more-

Reports for presidential campaigns will continue to grow in size and cost. Examples of costs for April Quarterly presidential reports are:

Gramm.....1403 pages.....\$70.15
Dole..... 579 pages.....\$28.95

There are other avenues available at the FEC that make research easy:

--GET ON LINE--

The FEC's Direct Access Program (DAP), designed for personal computers, allows computer access to financial summary statistics on campaigns, as well as PAC, political party and individual contributions. DAP users pay \$20 per hour for time used and can access information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To inquire further about this program, call the FEC Data Systems Development Division at (202)219-3470, or toll-free (800)424-9530.

--FAX IT--

The new FEC Flashfax service makes certain information and publications available by facsimile transmission at any time of the day or night by dialing (202)501-3413. A complete menu of documents is available by ordering document #411. [Campaign finance reports are not available through Flashfax.]

--CALL--

The FEC Press Office staff is available to answer questions regarding election laws, provide computerized indices of summary financial figures or details on campaign contributions, offer statistical information for all filers or for an individual campaign, and historical data from 1976 to present. The telephone number for the Press Office is (202)219-4155, or toll-free (800)424-9530.

###

CONTACT: FEC PRESS OFFICE
(202)219-4155