A.O. 33-1973

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION Temporary Office c/o Frank P. Reiche, Esq. l Palmer Square Princeton, New Jersey 07540

September 15, 1973

Assemblyman Arthur A. Manner 317 Plainfield Avenue Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922

Re: New Jersey Campaign Control and Expenditures Reporting Act, P. L. 1973, c. 83 ("the Act") Your Letter Dated August 2, 1973

Dear Assemblyman Manner:

Your letter of August 2, 1973, to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), including a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded to me for reply.

- The appearance of a candidate on television in the circumstances described in your letter, pursuant to invitation extended to all candidates by the New Jersey Broadcasting Authority, will not constitute a contribution to any of such candidates.
- 2. The offer of free time in the circumstances described in your letter may be accepted from the New Jersey Broadcasting Authority.
- 3. The value of the television time, in the circumstances described in your letter will not constitute an expenditure by any such candidate in furtherance or in aid of his candidacy within the meaning of Section 7.
- 4. The Commission will not require the reporting of the value of television time, in the circumstances set forth in your letter, as a thing of value.

Yours very truly,

New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission

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Edward J / Farrell, Esq. Legal Counsel

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ARTHUR A. MANNER ASSEMBLYMAN, DISTRICT 9C (UNION) 317 PLAINFIELD AVENUE BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. 07922

RES. 201-464-0033

August 2, 1973

New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, P. O. Box 209, Trenton, New Jersey 08540.

Gentlemen:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF NEW JERSEY TRENTON

> The New Jersey Broadcasting Authority has invited all Legislative candidates to appear on television during the fall campaign.

The Authority offers free prime time to all candidates who will appear together in each particular election district.

In view of the new campaign disclosure law, the invitation raises many questions on which I would appreciate your ruling.

- 1. Will this be considered a campaign contribution for the value of the time cost?
- 2. Can the free time be accepted from a controlled Authority?
- 3. Will the cost of the television time be included in the maximum allowable cost based on number of voters.
- 4. Will it be necessary to get a statement from the Authority indicating the value, and reporting the television time as a "thing of value"?

Your consideration of my request will be appreciated.

Sincerely, 1- 2. Cerue

AAM:VAT

Arthur A. Manner.