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March 27, 1978

Bernard Verney, Esquire
66 Morris Avenue
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and
Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws
of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act")
Opinion # (0-05-78)

Dear Mr. Verney:

Your letter dated February 1, 1978, to the New Jersey
Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"),
including a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded
to me for reply.

The constitutionality of the Act has recently been up-
held by the Appellate Division in E.L.E.C. v. State Chamber
of Commerce, et al, N.J. Super. _____, (App. Div.,
1977). This case is now on appeal before the New Jersey
Supreme Court. As a result of the appeal, the Commission
has extended the time for filing of annual reports for the
year 1977 until December 31, 1978. A copy of the press
release announcing this extension is enclosed herewith. Be-
cause of the extension of filing dates, further consideration
of your first and third questions regarding P.I.O.'s has been
postponed.

With regard to your second question, concerning a
possible difference in reporting requirements between a
trade association and a nonprofit trade association, the
Act does not appear to draw a distinction as to the re-
porting obligations of political information organizations
based on corporate status. As set forth in Commission re-
gulation 19:25-11.3, all affected political information
organizations must report, as contributions, the total amount
of their "receipts" used for political (i.e., lobbying)

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activity and report the names, addresses, and amounts of contributions made by any contributor whose contribution (or dues or assessment) to the organization for political activity exceeds \$100 in the aggregate.

Yours very truly,

Edward J. Farrell
Legal Counsel

EJF:no
Enclosure