

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMISSION
NATIONAL STATE BANK BLDG.
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November 16, 1979

F. Robert Meier, Treasurer
Common Cause
2030 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions
Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter
of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented
Your letter dated October 4, 1979
Opinion #0-15-79

RECEIVED
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ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT
COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Meier:

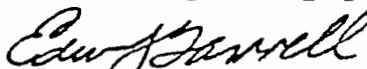
Your letter dated October 4, 1979, to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), including a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded to me for reply.

It is not possible to provide a response to your letter of October 4, without some further understanding of the relationship between "Common Cause" and "New Jersey/Common Cause".

In general the position of the Commission has been that organizations which become involved in election activities as political committees, and organizations formed for the purpose of raising and spending money with respect to candidates or public questions (such as political action committees) will be required to maintain a depository in the State of New Jersey if their primary relationship is with New Jersey. Organizations which are essentially national, and particularly organizations whose reporting obligations are governed by the Federal Election Commission, are permitted to comply in part with the filing requirements of the State of New Jersey by supplying copies of certain information filed with the Federal Election Commission, and are not required to maintain a depository in New Jersey.

Assuming that "New Jersey/Common Cause" is a separate New Jersey organization, then that organization would have an obligation of maintaining a bank authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey; "Common Cause" would not be so obligated, in the absence of a special relationship of "Common Cause" with New Jersey.

Yours very truly yours,


Edward J. Farrell
Legal Counsel

EJF:no