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October 12, 1994

Mr. Lawrence Noble, General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

RE: Keenan v. Simon, et al.
MUR 4012

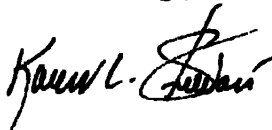
Dear Mr. Noble:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of an article by Al Cross, Louisville Courier-Journal political writer, concerning recent activities of Frank Simon and Freedom's Heritage Forum. The piece appeared in the Sunday, October 9, 1994 edition of the Courier-Journal.

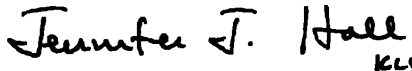
The writer's reference to ". . .200,000 copies of a slick tabloid. . ." supporting independent Third District Congressional candidate Richard Lewis, is of particular interest, in light of the fact that the costs of printing and distribution of the tabloids will be quite high and may violate federal spending caps on such expenditures. Our initial and supplemental complaints raise very similar issues with regard to the May 1994 primary contest between Republican candidates Susan Stokes and Tim Hardy. It appears from the Cross article that the violations are ongoing.

Should we receive additional information on this matter, we will forward it on to you.

Sincerely,



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/enclosure

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

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In 3rd District race, what Simon says may matter

Franks Simon first asked \$5 each for the videotapes, but when no one offered cash, he told his followers, "You can have it if you're just going to show it" — at home or a prayer meeting, he suggested.

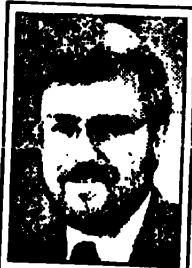
"This is what I would call applied Christianity, showing this video," Simon told the crowd of about 200 at last month's banquet of his Freedom's Heritage Forum, Kentucky's leading guerrilla force in America's culture wars.

The tape is "The Clinton Chronicles," a thoroughly scurrilous recitation of innuendo, half-truths and complete lies about President Clinton and his life in Arkansas. Its central figure is Larry Nichols, a discredited Clinton-hater who will be spewing his venom at two southern Jefferson County churches tomorrow and Tuesday.

His host will be Dr. Simon — allergist to his patients, and allergen to the increasingly out-shouted voices of moderation in public discourse. He is not to be (if you'll excuse the expression) sneezed at, for he has Jefferson County's most effective precinct organization and has become a force in the state Republican Party, which could be running a lot of things in Frankfort in little more than a year.

"We're going to put God-fearing people into public office," Simon promised the crowd at St. Luke's Church near the Bullitt County line.

Simon hasn't won many battles, though he may deserve some credit for last year's defeats of a Louisville gay-rights ordinance and Democrat Melissa Mershon for sheriff, and for helping Baptist preacher and Christian-bookstore owner Ron Lewis become the first Republican congressman from the 2nd District.



AL CROSS

COURIER-JOURNAL
POLITICAL WRITER

Simon has a chance to have his greatest influence yet next month, in the 3rd District. Without his candidate, independent Richard Lewis, the election would be Republican Susan Stokes' to lose. Instead, it's a toss-up between her and Democrat Mike Ward.

Stokes is an economic conservative, but on the hot-button social issues she's about as liberal as Ward. As a potential leader in the more conservative party, she is more of a threat to Simon's legions than Ward — who if elected might well be ousted by a more conservative Republican in 1996.

To exorcise Stokes and others like her, Simon mobilized his devotees to take over the local Republican machinery from old-line moderates. With allies, he threatened to take over the state party, and might have succeeded if state Chairman Terry Carmack hadn't strengthened his right flank by managing Ron Lewis' campaign.

Moderates at the state GOP convention in June squirmed but largely held their tongues as the newcomers, whom party leaders had shunted to the usually overlooked resolutions committee, got a conservative wish list enacted as the state party's first platform.

Some delegates worried that key slots were going to people who would follow a leader down a narrow path instead of working the precincts. Many of the newcomers did seem to be party builders, but there were also some like the one who asked another as they waited to see Simon before the convention, "He is going to tell us how to vote, isn't he?"

Simon makes sure his forces are well instructed and well organized. At last month's dinner, tables were marked with each legislative district number and the corresponding letter prefix for precinct numbers. Most wore tags with their precinct numbers, and when they got to the tables, they found precinct maps.

Later this month, Simon will revive a telephone bank that is "out of this world," said Omer "Shorty" Chesser, a Republican activist who considers his work in the group to be more a function of his religion than his politics.

The immediate assignments at the dinner were to hand out 200,000 copies of a slick tabloid promoting Lewis — "an atomic bomb to take back to your neighborhoods," Simon said — and drum up crowds to see Larry Nichols and the Clinton video.

"Clinton is a symbol for the whole left-wing movement," Simon explained in an interview. Liberal politics, immorality and criminality "go together in my book. The crime in the streets is because we've gotten away from God."

Simon said the choices in politics usually boil down to "people who believe in moral absolutes and people who believe it's kind of fuzzy."

Absolutes and near-absolutes are mon specialty, sometimes at the expense of the truth. Excoriating Clinton to the core he said, "Seems like about every other son he puts in his Cabinet is a homosexual."

Such talk and tactics discourage moderate Christians from joining Simon's army. If they did, and the activism more moderate, they would have more success. But that might also require more grace than they're willing to practice. Columnist Robert T. Garrett is on special assignment.