



*Truth, Honor, & Integrity - 24th Congressional District of Texas*

June 17, 1997

Larry Noble, Esquire  
General Counsel  
Federal Elections Commission  
999 East Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

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**Re: Complaint Representative Martin Frost - Democratic  
Congressional Campaign Committee - Tarrant County Democratic  
Party**

Dear Mr. Noble:

Pursuant to provisions of the Federal Elections Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("Act")<sup>1</sup>, the Project 24 of Conservative Advocacy, Inc., a citizens issue advocacy group is filing this complaint with your office. It regards the activities of the Democratic Congressional Committee ("DCCC"), Congressman Martin Frost and the Tarrant County Democratic Party. The actions of these organizations and Congressman Martin Frost are in violation of the Act and the Federal Elections Commission's regulations. In addition to filing this Complaint with the Commission, identical materials are being provided to the Elections Crimes branch of the Public Integrity Section of the United States Department of Justice. These materials are being provided to the Department of Justice since the matter may involve knowing and willful actions by these parties and significant sums of money. These factors provide a basis for a criminal investigation in addition to civil enforcement by the Commission<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 2 U.S.C. § 437g.

<sup>2</sup> 2 U.S.C. § 437g(d) United States v. Jackson 433 F. Supp. 239 (W.D.N.Y. 1977), aff'd 586 F.2d 832 (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir. 1977), denied 440 U.S. 239 (1978); United States v. Tonry, 433 F. Supp. 620 (W.D. LA. 1977); United States v. International Union of Operating Engineers, 638 F.2d 1161 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1979), cert. Denied 444 U.S. 1077 (1980). Criminal cases ground on the Act's penal section are ordinary federal crimes and will be prosecuted first without having been processed by the Federal Elections Commission.

We are seeking an immediate investigation by the Commission into the illegal practices of these parties. As the available public record clearly shows and the Commission's investigations can confirm, Congressman Martin Frost has conspired with the Tarrant County Democratic Party and the DCCC to violate the Act. The experiences and sophistication of the individuals involved with this program is such that there can be no reasonable doubt that this violation is a knowing and willful effort by them to circumvent and violate the Act.

Representative Martin Frost is the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; as such, he is the Chief Executive of that political committee. In 1996, Representative Frost was seeking re-election from the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas to the House of Representatives. Representative Frost transferred at least \$170,000 and possibly much more to local party operations in the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District from the Democratic Congressional Committee. The Tarrant County Democratic Party received at least \$97,000 in money raised outside the limitation restriction of the Act (soft money)<sup>3</sup>. This money was used for activities on behalf of the Frost Campaign in coordination with the DCCC. As an example of the misuse of this money, we directed Commissions to and attached an article from the April 7<sup>th</sup> issue of Roll Call discussing the Tarrant County Democratic Party's use of the funds from the DCCC to place radio advertisements urging voters to turn out for Representative Frost. Martin Frost was the sole candidate for any office appearing in the advertisements paid for by the Tarrant County Democratic party. These advertisements were paid for with funds raised outside the limitations and restrictions of the Act (soft money). These advertisements appeared not to have been reported as contributions to or expenditures for the Frost Campaign. Exempted party activities and volunteer materials that benefited Representative Frost's campaign appear to have been financed with funds transferred from the DCCC in violation of the Commission's regulations<sup>4</sup>. In light of public disclosures of these activities, the Commission should examine all expenditures of the Tarrant County Democratic Party and transfers received from the DCCC, since there is little doubt as to their use in connection with the Frost Congressional Election.

In conclusion, the public records in this case make it clear to any reasonable examination that there has been a carefully orchestrated conspiracy of these parties to circumvent provisions of the Act. The Commission should move expeditiously to review this matter, enjoin and impose appropriate penalties.

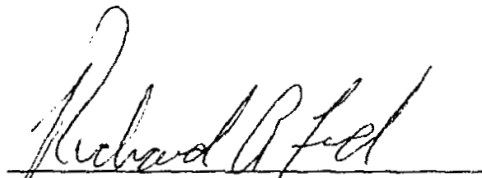
<sup>3</sup> 2 U.S.C. § 441b Union/Corporate treasury funds  
11 C.F.R. § 110.1(d); 110.2(d)

<sup>4</sup> 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.7(b)(15); 100.8(b)(16).

Larry Noble, Esquire  
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Very truly yours,

Enclosure

  
Sworn

6-17-97  
Date

Richard A. Ford  
President

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 17<sup>th</sup> day  
of June, 1997



