

State of California



Fair Political Practices Commission

P.O. BOX 807 • SACRAMENTO, 95804 • • • 1100 K STREET BUILDING, SACRAMENTO, 95814

Technical Assistance • • Administration • • Executive/Legal • • Enforcement • • Statements of Economic Interest
(916) 322-5662 322-5660 322-5901 322-6441 322-6444

February 17, 1984

Honorable Charles G. Rubin
Presiding Judge
The Municipal Court
Beverly Hills Judicial District
9355 Burton Way
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-84-015

Dear Judge Rubin:

This letter is sent in response to your request for advice dated January 29, 1984, concerning your disclosure obligations under the Political Reform Act. You stated that you are frequently invited to attend charitable and political fundraising dinners and other events. The tickets for these events vary in price from \$100 to \$250. Often your wife is invited to attend also. You asked whether your receipt of free admission to these events is reportable on your Statement of Economic Interests.

As you know, you are required to report, among other things, all gifts valued at \$50 or more received during the year (in this case, 1983). Government Code Section 87207.^{1/} Gifts include free tickets or any other form of free admission to dinners, entertainment and the like with two exceptions. Section 82028. Tickets to political fundraisers are not reportable as gifts or any other type of income. See Opinion requested by Kenneth Cory, 1 FPPC Opinions 137 (No. 75-094-C, October 1, 1975, copy enclosed). Tickets to charitable fundraising events which are provided to the official by the sponsor of the event are also not reportable gifts. Staff Advice Letter No. A-76-227. However, tickets to charitable

^{1/} All statutory references are to the California Government Code.

Honorable Charles G. Rubin
February 17, 1984
Page 2

fundraisers purchased by someone other than the sponsor and then given to the official may be reportable as gifts by the official. The reportable value of such tickets is only the value of the event itself (the meal, entertainment, etc.); the portion of the ticket price that represents a charitable contribution is not included in calculating the value of the gift. Thus, if the value of the event is \$50 or more, the ticket to the official should be reported. However, tickets which are provided to the spouse of the official are not gifts to the official himself in any event and therefore are not reportable.

I trust that this letter answers all of your concerns. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (916) 322-6444.

Sincerely,

Diane Maura Fishburn
Staff Counsel
Legal Division

DMF:plh
Enclosure



CHAMBERS OF
The Municipal Court

BEVERLY HILLS JUDICIAL DISTRICT
9355 BURTON WAY
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210
CHARLES G. RUBIN, PRESIDING JUDGE

January 29, 1984

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Fair Political Practices Commission
P.O. Box 807
Sacramento, California 95804

Attention: Technical Assistance Section

Gentlepersons:

As an elected local official, I am frequently invited as a guest to attend charitable and political fundraising dinners. The tickets for these events vary in price from \$100. to \$250. per person. Often, my wife is also invited.

My research has shown that I do not have to report these dinners on any income, gift or contribution reports under the Political Reform Act or any other law. Therefore, I do not intend to report such items.

Out of an abundance of caution, I would appreciate your informing me by return mail if my understanding of the law applicable to this matter is correct, i.e. that I do not have to report such items.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Rubin
Presiding Judge

CGR:me

State of California



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February 3, 1984

Honorable Charles S. Rubin
Presiding Judge
Municipal Court
9355 Burton Way
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: A-84-015

Dear Judge Rubin:

Your letter requesting advice under the Political Reform Act has been referred to Diane Maura Fishburn, an attorney in the Legal Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you have any questions about your advice request, you may contact this attorney directly at (916) 322-5901.

We try to answer all advice requests promptly. Therefore, unless your request poses particularly complex legal questions, or unless more information is needed to answer your request, you should expect a response within 21 working days.

Very truly yours,

Barbara A. Milman
Barbara A. Milman
General Counsel

BAM:plh