



California Fair Political Practices Commission

October 24, 1988

Honorable Newton R. Russell
Senator, 21st District
401 North Brand, Suite 424
Glendale, CA 91203

Re: Our File No. I-88-397

Dear Senator Russell:

We have received your letter requesting that we draft a reply, for you signature, in response to a letter from one of your constituents. The Fair Political Practices Commission is a nonpartisan agency and therefore does not prepare correspondence on behalf of members of the Legislature or other elected officials. The Commission does provide advice or information concerning application of the Political Reform Act. (Government Code Sections 81000-91015.)

The question presented by Michael More, your constituent, concerns false and misleading advertising, a subject not addressed by the Political Reform Act. Thus, we are unable to provide any specific answer about application of current law to the Mr. More's concerns.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Griffiths
General Counsel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn E. Donovan".

By: Kathryn E. Donovan
Counsel, Legal Division

DMG:KED:plh

September 30, 1988

Senator Newton Russell
401 N. Brand Blvd. Suite 424
Glendale, CA 91203

Saturday
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Dear Senator:

All during this campaign, both on the Federal and State level, I have heard the most outrageous attacks, half-truths, and what must be out and out lies spoken by nearly everybody, against everyone and everything else.

They all cannot be right, when you really examine the remarks made, because they all contradict each other. But by far, the worst offender in this is the California State Initiatives, their sponsors, and advertisements. A strong case in point is the flurry of attacks and counter-attacks involving the many Insurance bills now before the voters. They all claim that they are the only one, single bill that will benefit the people of the state, and that all of the others are either half measures, or backed by the Insurance companies themselves. The problem is that they all say this, and therefore, somebody is a bold-faced liar.

The Cigarette Tax is another example. The Occidental Petroleum is a third.

In all of this, the people of this state, and in regards to political candidates, the whole nation, are subjected to lies, counter-lies, half-truths, and falsehoods. It is obvious that the majority of this advertising companies, lobbyist, and political organizers care nothing for integrity, honesty, or truth, and think even less of the people of this country for feeding us such lies.

The people of this nation, by and large, are not ignorant dupes, fools, or morons, and to be treated as such by these organizations is the worst insult to what this nation is all about.

I ~~thank~~ challenge you, and others in your body, to enact a law to end this mockery of the American Ideal. We have a ~~Truth in Advertising law~~ which applies to products for the public. It is long past time that there was also a ~~Truth in Advertising law~~ for political campaigning. Political advertisers, lobbyist, and those who present these ads and bills should be forced by law to present only the truth, the real facts, without glitter or embellishments, both good and bad to the voters, and without the necessity of attacking their opponents. When you spend more time in attacking the

character of the opposition and less time on the real, viable issues at hand, the voters see this as weak, vindictive, and petty, and unworthy of someone wishing to hold office. It is no different with these bills, and those who back them and present them.

And this ~~law~~ should have teeth in it. If caught violating this law, the offender should be banned for any future involvement in politics, no matter what the level, serve a term in prison, and be heavily fined, with the money going to some worthy cause, such as medical research or the like.

It is obvious that these people will not voluntarily toe the line in this matter. Their very nature, and what they have been practicing in the past shows that they have no conscience, morals, or care for this country or the people who reside here. They only care for their pocketbook, and the best way to take from others, what justly belongs to the others, by foul means more than fair.

Granted, not all in public office are guilty of this shameful behavior, and not all people in political advertising and campaigning are without morals, conscience or scruples. But they are in the minority, and are completely overshadowed by the more base creatures who mar and deface the national character by their actions.

At times, I think there should be a place in the ballot, below the candidates names, and under the initiatives that reads "None Of the Above", so that those in office can see what the people really think. That way, if None Of The Above wins, there would have to be a new election, with all new candidates.

But again, I challenge you to push to create a Truth in Political Advertising Bill, with appropriate penalties for the offenders to give it some teeth. There is a joke to the effect that Honesty in Government, like Jumbo Shrimp and Military Intelligence are Aximorons. Problem is that they are not jokes, and the Government and the Military have done it to themselves. As such, it is up to them to clean up their act before they completely lose the faith of the people. And let not any in public office forget, We The People are your employers, and with the current performance appraisal, nobody deserves a raise, and some deserve to be fired.

With disgust and a sorry heart at what the political machine has become:



Michael Colin More
221 N. Cedar St. #33
Glendale, CA 91206

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California State Senate



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NEWTON R. RUSSELL

SENATOR, TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

MINORITY WHIP

October 3, 1988

OCT 07 1988

Mr. Jay Greenwood
Fair Political Action Commission
P. O. Box 807
Sacramento, Calif. 95804

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

I recently received the attached correspondence from my constituent,

I would greatly appreciate it if you or a member of your staff will prepare the following:

- A suggested reply for my signature.
- An explanation of the problem described in the attached correspondence.
- A review of your file to determine what assistance your office can provide.
- A copy of your correspondence with my constituent on this subject.
- Other:

I shall be awaiting your reply with the greatest of interest.

Sincerely,
Newton R. Russell
NEWTON R. RUSSELL
21st District

NOTE: Please reply to District office address.