

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN • SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE TREASURY BUILDING



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

October 12, 1981

Dorothey Sherman, Treasurer  
 Committee for the Re-Election of  
 Judge Richard D. McLean  
 67200 Van Dyke  
 Romeo, Michigan 48065

Dear Ms. Sherman:

This is in response to your inquiry concerning the Campaign Finance Act ("the Act"), 1976 PA 388, as amended.

You inquire whether a candidate committee may use any remaining campaign funds for a thank-you dinner for the committee after the election. It is your opinion the dinner would "influence an election" as contemplated by the Act.

Section 5 of the Act (MCL 169.206) defines "expenditure" as anything of ascertainable monetary value used for the "nomination or election of a candidate . . . ." This definition is consistent with the definition of "contribution." Section 4 of the Act (MCL 169.204) relates the latter to the "purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate . . . ."

A thank-you dinner for the candidate's committee soon after the election is sufficiently tied to election activity so as to serve to influence his or her nomination or election. Consequently, the use of campaign funds to pay for such an event would be appropriate under the Act's provisions.

This response is informational only and does not constitute a declaratory ruling.

Very truly yours,

Phillip T. Frangos, Director  
 Office of Hearings & Legislation

PTF/cw