

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AJSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE TREASURY BUILDING



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

October 10, 1978

Mrs. Donna F. Bluhm  
274 E. Arbutus Lake Road  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Dear Mrs. Bluhm:

This is in response to your request concerning the applicability of the Campaign Finance Act, P.A. 388 of 1976, as amended ("the Act"), to the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan (RWFm).

You state in the recent history of the RWFm there have been no political contributions to candidates or proposals exceeding \$200.00 in any one year. You indicate a local club requesting affiliation with the national organization, National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW), or the state organization, RWFm, sends 75 cents per member to the RWFm. The RWFm treasurer sends on 40 cents per member to the NFRW. Any other funds needed for operations and education are raised through special events, presumably sponsored by the RWFm. Those funds are funneled back to local club members in the form of programs, workshops, bulletins and educational material. There is no profit, interest accumulation, or overflow; you state that only enough money is raised to finance the organization's educational activities. You indicate the RWFm neither receives nor gives contributions in excess of \$200.00 per year.

You request a declaratory ruling that the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan is relieved from reporting requirements under the Act.

In a March 29, 1978, letter to Ms. Cindy Sage, Treasurer, Republican Women's Federation of Michigan, the Department stated the only organization which must file under the Act is an organization which fits the definition of "committee" as defined in the Act. Sec. 3 of the Act (MCLA § 169.203) defines "committee" to include an organization which spends or receives \$200.00 or more to influence an election.

A general answer was provided to Ms. Sage because her original request was vague. She stated, for example, "It has not been the practice of the Michigan Federation to contribute to political campaigns or ballot issues. In the past, however, local clubs have contributed funds to political campaigns or issues."

Your present letter, though apparently restricted to the RWFm, lacks some information which precludes the issuance of a declaratory ruling at this time. It is not clear whether you are including the local organizations as part of the RWFm in seeking for the RWFm a blanket exemption from the Act's reporting requirements.

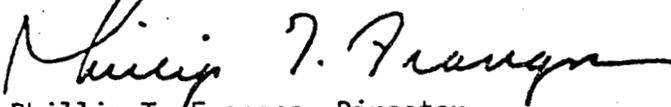
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Further, you do not elaborate on the nature of the "educational activities" engaged in by the RWF. Some organizations have been surprised to find their "educational activities" to be subject to the Act.

Lastly, you do not indicate whether the RWF or any of its local units are incorporated. This information is pertinent to issuance of any declaratory ruling by the Department.

In view of the fact your letter was general in nature and lacked the specificity required by Section 63 of the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act (MCLA § 159.263), which establishes the criteria for requesting and issuing a declaratory ruling, this response may be considered as informational only and not as constituting a declaratory ruling.

Very truly yours,



Phillip T. Frangos, Director  
Office of Hearings and Legislation

PTF:pj