

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1100 STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20543

REPORT OF THE AUDIT DIVISION  
ON  
THE SOPER FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE

I. Background

A. Overview

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This report is based upon an audit of the Soper For Congress Committee ("the Committee") undertaken by the Audit Division of the Federal Election Commission in accordance with the Commission's audit policy to determine whether there has been compliance with the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). The audit was conducted pursuant to Section 438(a)(8) of Title 2 of the United States Code which directs the Commission to make from time to time audits and field investigations with respect to reports and statements filed under the provisions of the Act.

The Committee registered with the Federal Election Commission on February 2, 1976, as the principal campaign committee of Joanne D. Soper, candidate for election to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 6th District of Iowa. The Committee maintained its headquarters in Sioux City, Iowa.

The audit covered the period January 1, 1976, through July 29, 1977. During the period January 1, 1976 through April 30, 1977, the closing date of the latest report filed prior to the audit, the Committee reported beginning cash of \$-0-, receipts of \$60,669.60, expenditures of \$60,669.60, and ending cash of \$-0-.

This audit report is based on documents and working papers supporting each of the factual statements. They form part of the record upon which the Commission based its decisions on the matters in this report and were available to Commissioners and appropriate staff for review.



B. Key Personnel

The principal officers of the Committee during the period covered by the audit were Mr. Emmet Soper, Jr., Chairman from February 2, 1976 through May 12, 1976; Mr. Darrel Rensink, Chairman from May 13, 1976 through the audit period; and Ms. Sandra Sabel, Treasurer.

C. Scope

The audit included such tests as verification of reported receipts and expenditures and individual transactions; review of required supporting documentation; analysis of Committee debts and obligations; and, such other audit procedures as deemed necessary under the circumstances.

II. Auditor's Statement and Description of Findings

It is the opinion of the Audit staff, based upon examination of the reports and statements filed and the records presented that, except for the deficiencies noted below, the reports and statements of the Soper for Congress Committee fairly present the financial activities of the Committee for the period covered by the audit. Further, except as noted below, no material problems in complying with the Federal Election Campaign Act were discovered during the course of the audit.

A. Retention of Supporting Documentation for Expenditures

Section 432(d) of Title 2 of the United States Code requires a committee treasurer to retain a receipted bill for every expenditure made by or on behalf of the committee in excess of \$100, or for a lesser amount if all expenditures to the same person exceed \$100 during a calendar year.

An initial internal sample of Committee expenditures was made to determine the adequacy of supporting documentation. The results of this test showed that nine (9) of the 10 expenditures that lacked adequate documentation occurred around the period of the general election. Consequently, a second test was conducted of 100% of itemized expenditures from September 1, 1976 through January 31, 1977. This review revealed that of 114 expenditures (56.4% of the total itemized expenditures) aggregating in excess of \$100 during this period, 39 (34.2% of the sample) reflected only a cancelled check. These expenditures, ranging in amounts from \$10 to \$2,893.90, totaled \$11,329.31 (36.7% of the total amount itemized in the sample). Of the 39 expenditures lacking documentation, 11 were for advertising, nine (9) for postage, 11 for employee expense reimbursement (of which eight (8) were \$10 or less), and eight (8) were for miscellaneous purposes (including four (4) of an in-kind nature).

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This matter was brought to the attention of the Committee representatives, and they were advised of the requirements of Section 432(d) of the Act and Section 102.9(c) of the Commission's Regulations. The Committee responded that unsupported expenditures occurred primarily because of the increased activity around the general election.

We recommended that the Committee furnish the Commission documentation supporting the above expenditures or evidence of their reasonable efforts to obtain same. On February 9th and 10th, 1978, the Commission received the required documentation from the Committee.

Recommendation

Since the Committee has submitted the requested documentation, no additional action is recommended.

B. Expenditures Made After Termination

Section 102.4 of Title 11, Code of Federal Regulations provides, in part, that a candidate's principal campaign committee may terminate its reporting obligations only if debts owed by the committee have been retired.

The Committee filed its termination report with the Commission on June 27, 1977, covering the period March 31 to April 30, 1977. At that time the Committee reported no outstanding debts and obligations. However, our audit disclosed the payment of additional payroll tax obligations in July, 1977, totaling \$357.95. The Candidate contributed the necessary funds to the Committee to retire these unexpected obligations.

We recommended to the Committee that they file an amended termination report incorporating the payroll tax payments and the contribution from the Candidate. On December 12, 1977, the Commission received the Committee's amended termination report.

Recommendation

Since the Committee has filed the requested report, no additional action is recommended.

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C. Itemization of Contributions and Transfers

Section 434(b)(2) of Title 2 of the United States Code requires a committee to disclose in its reports the full name, mailing address, occupation and the principal place of business of each person who has made one or more contributions within the calendar year in an aggregate amount in excess of \$100, together with the amount and date of such contributions. Section 434(b)(4) of Title 2 of the United States Code requires a committee to disclose the name and address of each political committee from whom they received a transfer of funds.

Our examination of the Committee records revealed five (5) contributions totaling \$355 and three (3) transfers-in totaling \$225 which the Committee did not itemize as required in its reports to the Commission. These eight (8) items represent 13.3% of the total items requiring itemization. These contributions and transfers, ranging in amounts from \$50 to \$105, totaled \$580 (1.3% of the total amount requiring itemization).

We recommended to the Committee that they file a comprehensive amendment for 1976 to include the required information. On December 12, 1977, the Commission received the Committee's amended report.

Recommendation

Since the Committee has amended their reports to disclose this information, no additional action is recommended.

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CONGRESSIONAL AUDIT REPORT

Candidate/Committee: Jo Anne Soper / Soper for Congress Committee

State: Iowa

District: 6

Location: Western Iowa, Sioux City

Political Party Affiliation: Republican

Major Opponent(s): Berkley Bedell (D)

Other Candidates Audited: Bedell

Votes Cast: General Election - Bedell 133,507 Soper 62,292

Primary Election - None

Total Receipts for Period: \$60,669.60

Total Expenditures for Period: \$60,669.60

First Elected (if applicable): N/A

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FEC  
DOCUMENT  
SEPARATOR

