

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 46

Expressing the sense of Congress that investigations of campaign fundraising practices should be left to the Federal Election Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 1997

Mr. FATTAH submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that investigations of campaign fundraising practices should be left to the Federal Election Commission.

Whereas Congress established the bipartisan Federal Election Commission to investigate alleged violations of Federal law relating to the financing of campaigns for Federal elections on a bipartisan basis;

Whereas many members of Congress have complained that the Commission does not carry out its mission, largely because the Commission has not been given sufficient resources;

Whereas the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate have announced

plans to conduct hearings and investigations of fundraising practices of the 1996 elections;

Whereas it is anticipated that nearly \$10,000,000 will be spent on these hearings and investigations, an amount that represents nearly 35 percent of the amount appropriated by Congress for the entire operations of the Federal Election Commission for fiscal year 1997;

Whereas unlike the Federal Election Commission, these Committees have no real expertise in Federal election law and operate on a partisan basis;

Whereas because of the partisan nature of the operation of Congressional committees, the findings of these Committees will inevitably be viewed with skepticism by the people of the United States;

Whereas the appropriate means for Congress to address the issues expected to be raised in these hearings and investigations is through the consideration of legislation to reform the laws governing the financing of campaigns for election for Federal office; and

Whereas the time spent by the members of these Committees in conducting these hearings and investigations is time that will not be spent addressing education, health care, job creation, and other issues affecting the real lives of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) any investigations of alleged violations of
4 Federal law relating to the financing of campaigns
5 for election for Federal office should be conducted
6 by the Federal Election Commission; and

1 (2) the amounts proposed to be expended to
2 conduct Congressional hearings and investigations of
3 such alleged violations should instead be provided to
4 the Commission so that it may effectively carry out
5 its responsibilities under the law.

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