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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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LONSDALE CAMPAIGN RECEIVES ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTION FROM STATE  
REPUBLICAN PARTY; AU COIN CAMPAIGN FILES FEC COMPLAINT

The AuCoin for Senate Campaign today filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission charging the Oregon Republican Party with making an illegal campaign contribution to the Lonsdale for Senate campaign. The complaint asks the FEC for "prompt consideration of these violations and the imposition of appropriate sanctions."

Mary Beth Cahill, AuCoin's campaign director, said that this week's Republican Party purchase of \$42,000 in radio advertisements aimed at defeating Les AuCoin in the Democratic senatorial primary "is both an illegal and unprecedented attempt by the Republican party to manipulate Tuesday's May 19th Democratic primary."

Craig Berkman, chairman of the state Republican Party, announced at the time of the ad purchase that the Republicans' intent was to "defeat" AuCoin in the Democratic senatorial primary. "We'd rather run against Lonsdale than AuCoin," Berkman said, alluding to the November general election against incumbent Republican Senator Robert Packwood.

The complaint alleges that the Republican Party is prohibited from making independent expenditures in connection with the campaigns of candidates for Federal office.

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Paid for by the Les AuCoin for Senate Committee, P.O. Box 641, Beaverton, OR 97075. Clint Cook, Treasurer.

"Since the Oregon Republican Party is conducting this campaign for the benefit of Harry Lonsdale, a Democrat, it is not making an expenditure in connection with a campaign for Federal office of a candidate affiliated with the party," the complaint alleges. "Therefore, the expenditure is either a prohibited independent expenditure or the expenditure of a political action committee. If this is the expenditure of a political action committee, the Oregon Republican Party has made an in kind contribution on behalf of Democratic Senate candidate Harry Lonsdale. Accordingly, the contribution should not exceed the \$5,000 limit on PAC contributions. In addition, Harry Lonsdale is required to report the expenditure on his behalf by the Oregon Republican Party as an in-kind contribution on his reports filed with the FEC."

In addition, according to FEC rules, the complaint states that such expenditures must be made "in connection with the general election campaign of a candidate for Federal office. There is no general election campaign underway. The primary election is on May 19, 1992. The Oregon Republican Party is not permitted to make any expenditures in connection with the primary campaigns of candidates for Federal office."