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October 28, 1981

Mr. Fred Wertheimer
Common Cause
2030 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Your letter of October 1981

Subject: FOREIGN CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

Dear Mr. Wertheimer:

Mrs. Mudge and I are generally supporters of the Common Causes. However, you are misinformed on the subject of the FOREIGN CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT of 1977.

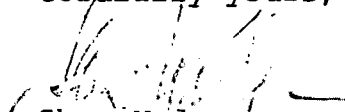
Senator John Chafee, author of the bill (S-708) to amend the F.C.P.A. could hardly be considered a member of the New Right. As a matter of fact, he's on their "hit list".

The Chafee amendment is a necessary clarification of a law which was hastily drafted and passed in the heat of emotion. As such, it was not clearly written nor subject to adequate scrutiny and debate. It has had unintended and often disastrous effects on our foreign trade.

The Chafee amendment is the only change under serious consideration. It has bi-partisan support and is broadly recognized as necessary. It is substantially the same bill he introduced in the last session of Congress (S-2563), before the appearance of the New Right.

We urge that Common Cause focus on the vital issues, such as defense of the Supreme Court, clean air and voting rights. Let's not dilute our efforts fighting a minor change, a clarification.

Cordially yours,


Shaw Mudge

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