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12:30 PM - Oval Office
Swearing in Ceremony for Members
of the Federal Election Commission

Monday, April 14, 1975


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1975

SWEARING IN OF THE
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Monday, April 14, 1975
12:30 p.m. (30 minutes)
The Cabinet Room

From: James Cannon 

I. PURPOSE

To swear in Commissioners of the Federal Election Commission.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

You signed this act into law on October 15, 1974. It contains the following provisions:

- Limits the amounts that can be contributed to any candidate in any Federal election, and it limits the amounts that those candidates can expend in their campaigns.
- Provides for matching funds for Presidential primaries and public financing for Presidential nominating conventions and Presidential elections through use of the \$1 voluntary tax checkoff.
- Tightens the rules on any use of cash, it limits the amounts of speaking honorariums, and it outlaws campaign dirty tricks.
- Requires strict campaign financial reporting and disclosure.
- Establishes a bipartisan six-member Federal election commission to see that the provisions of the act are followed.

There was opposition to the bill within the Administration because of the constitutional questions involved:

1. Limiting campaign contributions could be interpreted as a violation of the first amendment.
2. Congress would appoint four of the six members, in effect usurping the appointive powers of the President.

The constitutionality of the law is being challenged in the Federal District Court by Senator James Buckley, Gene McCarthy, Congressman Steiger and a number of organizations.

B. Participants:

The invitation list is being prepared by the Presidents Personnel Office. The participation list will be finalized Monday morning.

C. Press Plan:

White House Press Corps, photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. The people of the United States want, and our political systems requires fair and honest elections.
2. For our systems to work the people must participate. They must make the election process their own and they must do so with their time, their energy, and their dollars.
3. Last year the Congress passed and I signed into law the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974. That Act provided for the creation of a bipartisan Federal Election Commission to administer the new law and to see that its provisions are observed.
4. Today we are here to swear in the first six members of the Federal Election Commission. They must and will play an important role in the governance of future elections in this country. I wish them well in carrying out this responsibility.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
List	Federal Election Commissioners and their Guests (2 page) Document contains Social Security #'s	4/14/1975	C

File Location:

James M. Cannon Files, Box 43, Swearing in for Members of the Federal Election Commission, 4/14/1975 / TMH / 5/19/2015

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