

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 16, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

THE BRIEFING ROOM

11:36 A.M. EST

In only two weeks time, unless there is affirmative action by the Congress, the Federal Elections Commission will be stripped of most of its powers. We must not allow that to happen.

The Commission has become the chief instrument for achieving clean Federal elections. If it becomes an empty shell, public confidence in our political process will be further eroded and the door will be opened to abuses in the coming elections.

We can and we must reconstitute the Commission in the next two weeks. I am today submitting essential legislation to get that job done and I urge the Congress to join with me in quick and effective action. There can be no retreat on an issue so fundamental to our democracy.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 11:38 A.M. EST)