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THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON  
October 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: William E. Timmons *BT*  
SUBJECT: Campaign Reform

Senators Mansfield and Scott understand from earlier meetings that you will sign the Campaign Reform Bill as reported out of conference.

Hugh Scott called for absolute reassurance which he can convey to the Majority Leader. Without that guarantee Mike Mansfield does not wish to adopt the conference report for fear of a possible pocket veto. They hope to clear the measure today.

My personal view is that the bill is unconstitutional, it injures political parties, assists incumbents and would be nearly impossible to conduct an aggressive presidential campaign under its limits. It broadens taxpayers financing to primaries and conventions and, according to Kennedy and others, will set the stage for public funding of congressional campaigns later. Technically, it is seriously deficient. For example, there is absolutely no provision for Vice Presidential candidates, no guidelines regarding candidates who share campaign commercials, brochures, billboards, etc. How much is allocated to each?

Having said this, however, I recognize the political aspects of recommending a veto in the current climate, three weeks before an election. Also there is great likelihood any veto would be over-ridden.

TELL SCOTT AND MANSFIELD:

I WILL SIGN THE BILL Y.R. 9.

I WILL VETO THE BILL \_\_\_\_\_

I REQUEST THEY HOLD THE BILL UNTIL  
NOVEMBER TO GIVE ME A CHANCE TO  
STUDY IT IN GREATER DETAIL \_\_\_\_\_