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PKWS
2/27/76

~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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February 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*
SUBJECT: Wayne Hays' Reaction to Presidential Statement
on the Federal Election Commission

Chairman Hays reacted violently today to the President's statement on the Federal Election Commission.

He called at 4:20 p.m. today and was livid about the veto threat.

Hays indicated he is calling off the scheduled House Administration Committee mark-up on the bill Monday, and instead, convening a House Democratic Caucus.

Hays said he will recommend the Caucus instruct him to report the original Hays bill immediately, rejecting all Republican amendments.

Hays said he had been cooperating with the Minority leadership and jurisdictional Members in working out a compromise and had been accepting Republican amendments.

He was quite abusive and sounded berserk with anger about a possible veto.

I reviewed the statement with him and before we hung up, he had calmed down some.

However, the Chairman will be difficult to deal with on this issue next week.