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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1976

5/11/76
Talked to him.
Recommendations approved.

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Robert Strauss, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee

DATE: Tuesday, May 11, 1976

RECOMMENDED BY: Rog Morton, Dick Cheney

PURPOSE: To get his views on whether or not you should sign the Federal Election Commission Amendments.

BACKGROUND: Yesterday you met with Mary Louise Smith concerning the long-term impact of the FEC Amendments on the Republican Party.

You will meet with the GOP Congressional Leadership today on the same subject, and you are expected to announce your decision later this afternoon.

NOTE: In order to minimize any possible adverse impact of your decision on the Nebraska primary, our current plan is for your decision to be announced by the Press Office at approximately 5:30 this afternoon. We expect the key GOP leaders who are meeting with you today to join Mary Louise Smith in recommending that you sign the bill.

TALKING POINTS: • Bob, I have very carefully considered the FEC amendments which are on my desk for signature. As you know, I urged Congress to pass a simple extension in order that we could get through the 1976 election with the minimum confusion.

The bill before me contains a great many changes in the existing law, some of which the Attorney General advises me are unconstitutional.

Advised Dana Fagan 5/12/76

I have heard the views of Mary Louise Smith on the long-term potential impact of these amendments on the two-party system. The purpose of my call is to hear your views on the long-term impact of these amendments.

(After Mr. Strauss responds) I appreciate hearing your views and will carefully consider them as I reach my decision later on this afternoon.