

The original documents are located in Box 23, “2/16/76 - Remarks on the Necessity for Reconstituting the Federal Election Commission” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

IN ONLY TWO WEEKS' TIME, \ UNLESS THERE
IS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BY THE CONGRESS, \ THE
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WILL BE STRIPPED
OF MOST OF ITS POWERS.

WE MUST NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.

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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 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
ACTION. THERE CAN BE NO RETREAT ON AN ISSUE
SO FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR DEMOCRACY.