

**The original documents are located in Box 27, “3/26/76 - Statement to the National Newspaper Association Pleading Again for Congress to Reconstitute 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 SEEN. . . .

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION STATEMENT

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSN.

1.

EARLY THIS YEAR, IN ITS RULING ON THE CAMPAIGN  
REFORM LAWS, THE SUPREME COURT SAID THE CONGRESS  
HAD 30 DAYS TO CORRECT A SMALL DEFECT IN THE FEDERAL  
ELECTION COMMISSION OR THE COMMISSION WOULD LOSE  
MOST OF ITS POWERS.

2.

THREE WEEKS AGO, BECAUSE THE CONGRESS HAD  
NOT YET ACTED, THE COURT GRANTED A 20-DAY  
EXTENSION.

3.

NOW SOME 50 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE  
COURT ANNOUNCED ITS ORIGINAL DECISION, AND THIS  
CONGRESS IS STILL ENGAGED IN INEXCUSABLE  
AND DANGEROUS DELAYS.

4.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT. ON MIDNIGHT MONDAY,  
THE WATCHDOG SET UP TO PROTECT OUR ELECTIONS WILL  
BE STRIPPED OF MOST OF ITS AUTHORITIES.

5.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK --  
JUST AS I AM ASKING:

6.

-- WHY WON'T THE CONGRESS ACT IMMEDIATELY TO  
EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE COMMISSION THROUGH THE  
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS? THIS IS THE PROPOSAL THAT I  
HAVE MADE REPEATEDLY AND IT IS A SOUND, SENSIBLE  
APPROACH.

7.

-- WHY ARE SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS STILL  
TRYING TO IMPOSE MASSIVE CHANGES UPON THE  
CAMPAIGN LAWS RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF A CAMPAIGN?  
IT IS CLEAR THAT SUCH CHANGES WOULD CREATE  
GREATER CHAOS AND UNCERTAINTY SO THAT I COULD NOT  
IN GOOD CONSCIENCE ACCEPT SUCH A BILL.

8.

-- FINALLY, WHY DO SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS  
SEEM TO BE RETREATING FROM OUR COMMITMENT  
TO FAIR, CLEAN ELECTIONS. NO ONE CAN IGNORE THE  
FACT THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD ENOUGH  
OF "POLITICS AS USUAL."

9.

THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS TO WHICH THE CONGRESS  
MUST BE HELD TO ACCOUNT AS WE APPROACH MONDAY'S  
DEADLINE. I URGE THE CONGRESS TO ACT WITH DISPATCH  
IN RE-ESTABLISHING THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
SO THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN 1976 WILL BE  
TRULY WORTHY OF OUR GREAT NATION.

THANK YOU.