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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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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.
-- 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."

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.