

NEWS FROM...

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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STATEMENT OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
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In order to assure that there is no public misunderstanding with regard to the effect of the October 1, 1976 adjournment of Congress on Federal election campaigns in progress, the Commission wishes to point out that the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, remains in full force and effect and will govern the 1976 election.

In addition, the FEC regulations, which were transmitted to Congress on August 3, 1976, and published in the Federal Register on August 25, 1976 (41 FR 35932) represent the formally adopted views of the Commission as to the meaning of Federal campaign finance law.

This announcement provides notice to all affected parties that the Commission intends to administer the law in a fashion which implements the interpretations set forth in the proposed regulations. All persons subject to the Act should accordingly comply fully with the requirements of the FEC regulations during the 1976 elections. The FEC regulations should be looked upon as interpretative rules under traditional concepts of administrative law and should be taken as an authoritative guide as to how the election laws apply. See, illustratively, the Supreme Court's opinion in Griggs v. Duke Power Co., where the Court examined a guideline issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:

"The administrative interpretation of the Act by the enforcing agency is entitled to great deference. See, e.g., United States v. City of Chicago, 400 U.S. 8 (1970); Udall v. Tallman, 380 U.S. 1 (1965); Power Reactor Co. v. Electricians, 367 U.S. 396 (1961)."

Moreover, the Commission wishes particularly to stress that it has undertaken enforcement actions in numerous cases to date and that such compliance procedures will continue.