

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEC GEARS UP FOR 1980 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

WASHINGTON - February 27, 1979 -- Machinery is being oiled at the Federal Election Commission in preparation for operation of the 1980 Presidential election. The Commission has just submitted to Congress proposed regulations which will govern the administration of the Presidential Primary Matching Payment Account Act. These regulations will define the process under which 1980 Presidential candidates may receive federal matching funds for their primary campaigns.

As required by law, the proposed FEC regulations have been sent both to the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. If neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives disapproves the proposed regulations within 30 legislative days, the regulations will become effective.

In preparing the new regulations, the Federal Election Commission drew upon its experience in administering the 1976 Presidential election, as well as upon comments from the general public and testimony given in public hearings by various 1976 Presidential campaigns which received public funds.

The new regulations would clarify some of the present recordkeeping requirements and would also increase a candidate's responsibility with regard to providing evidence that expenditures made by the campaign were qualified campaign expenses and therefore payable from federal funds.

The submission of these proposed regulations to Congress is the first in a series of steps the Commission hopes to take to clarify existing procedures. The Commission's intent is to develop a comprehensive plan for administering the 1980 Presidential election--a plan designed to assist campaigns in their efforts to comply with the complexities of the campaign finance law.