

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office  
1325 K Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463  
Phone: Toll Free 800 424 9530 Local 523 4065

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CONTACT: FRED EILAND  
SHARON SNYDER

WASHINGTON -- "The public, Congress and the media have a right to expect a smooth, first rate effort by the Federal Election Commission in the regulation and administration of the 1980 elections," Robert O. Tiernan, Chairman of the FEC, said today in testimony before the Senate Rules Committee. "To accomplish this goal, however, sufficient funds will be needed to implement the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act," he asserted.

Participating at the hearing on the Commission's Fiscal Year 1981 authorization were Commissioner Frank Reiche, Staff Director Orlando Potter, General Counsel Charles N. Steele and Deputy Staff Director William Loughrey.

Chairman Tiernan pointed out that while Amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, which went into effect on January 8, 1980, reduced reporting and filing requirements, "...the work of the FEC is not significantly altered." He went on to remind the Senate Rules Committee members that because of limited budgets in past years, "there are a number of provisions in the Act which the Commission has not been able to implement fully."

He explained that the 1980 elections actually fall in the 1981 fiscal year, and the three largest, and usually most significant, disclosure reports are filed in that time frame. These reports disclose the activity closest to the general election.

Full disclosure of campaign finance activities by candidate committees, political committees and political action committees, expeditious handling of complaints and advisory opinions, speedy entry of data into the Commission's computer system, rapid close-out of the primary matching fund certification process and quick completion of audits of primary and general election candidates receiving public funds are major concerns of the Commission, Chairman Tiernan declared.

"The FEC has committed significant resources to prepare for efficient and timely completion of these tasks," he said. "Such efforts would be frustrated unless there is proper funding in Fiscal Year 1981."