



THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

RECORD

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COMMISSION MEMBERS SWORN IN— THOMSON ELECTED CHAIRMAN

On May 21, 1976, the six members of the newly re-established Federal Election Commission were sworn into office at ceremonies at the White House. Immediately following the swearing-in, the Commissioners returned to FEC headquarters to conduct their first meeting as a newly re-constituted Commission.

.....The first item of business was to elect the principal officers of the Commission to one-year terms for the coming year. **Vernon W. Thomson** was elected to serve as Chairman of the FEC; **Thomas E. Harris** will serve as Vice Chairman.

.....The Commission then authorized publication in the *Federal Register* of a comprehensive new package of draft regulations, including revisions of draft regulations sent to the Congress last year, amended to reflect and interpret new and revised provisions of the 1976 Amendments, and several new regulations.

.....Also in the May 21 meeting the FEC certified over \$4 million in Federal funds to be released by the U.S. Treasury in Presidential primary matching funds and national nominating convention payments.

Since March 23, when the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Buckley v. Valeo* went into effect, the former Commission could only receive reports, conduct routine audits, and provide general information. It could not constitutionally make executive-type determinations -- including making interpretations of the law, issuing Advisory Opinions, taking compliance actions, and certifying release of public funds. The Court had ruled that the manner in which the Commission was appointed -- in part by the Congress -- violated the separation of powers provision of the Constitution.

On May 11, *The Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976* (P.L. 94-283) were signed into law, modifying the existing campaign finance law, and providing for appointment of the six Commission members by the President, with confirmation by the Senate.

One week after signing the FEC bill, the President named five former members of the Commission and a new member to staggered terms of two to five years -- with each term ending in a non-election year.

The Federal Election Commission members and their terms of service follow (biographies for each appear on Page 4):

Vernon W. Thomson -- Chairman -- April 30, 1979
Thomas E. Harris -- Vice Chairman -- April 30, 1979
Joan D. Aikens -- April 30, 1981
William L. Springer -- April 30, 1977
Neil Staebler -- April 30, 1977
Robert O. Tiernan -- April 30, 1981

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THE NEW LAW: BASIC CHANGES

Under the former law (1971/1974 Act), Title 2 U.S.C. provisions covered organization, disclosure, and enforcement provisions, while Title 18, U.S.C. contained contribution and expenditure limitations and other restrictions.

The 1976 Amendments shifted Title 18 provisions, under FEC jurisdiction, into Title 2 as new sections (441a-441j). *All provisions of the Act are now codified in Title 2* (except the public financing provisions of Title 26).

In addition, the following are among major changes in the Act:

- The FEC has been given increased civil enforcement authority;
- Contribution limits to political committees of \$5,000 per year have been added;

- More precise language has been added defining "independent expenditures" and outlining reporting requirements for independent expenditures;
- New requirements have been added concerning solicitation of funds to corporate or union separate segregated funds;
- New requirements are outlined concerning identification statements that must be contained in publications, broadcasts, and advertisements.

The Commission has available two new publications analyzing the new law and its basic changes:

1. *A Campaign Guide* -- a summary of the changes made by the 1976 Amendments;
2. *Special text* -- showing the text of the law, with old and new language side by side.

In addition, a new compilation of the text of Federal election campaign laws is being printed and will be available as soon as possible.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED ON DRAFT REGULATIONS

In the May 26 issue of the *Federal Register*, the FEC published for public comment 10 sets of regulations on the campaign finance law, including the 1976 Amendments to the Act. Copies of these draft regulations are available from the Commission upon request.

Public hearings on the draft proposals will be held at the FEC during the week of June 7. The period for public comment will close on Monday, June 14, 1976.

The draft regulations published, and their hearing dates, follow:

- PARTS
101-108 Disclosure (Mon., June 7)
- PART 109 Independent Expenditures (Tues.,
June 8)
- PART 110 Contribution and Expenditure
Limitations (Wed., June 9)
- PART 111 Compliance Procedures (Wed.,
June 9)
- PART 112 Advisory Opinion Procedures (Tues.,
June 8)
- PART 113 Office Accounts (Tues., June 8)

- PART 114 Corporate and Union Political Acti-
vity (Thurs., June 11)
- PART 115 Government Contractors (Thurs.,
June 11)
- PARTS
120-124 Convention Financing (Tues.,
June 8)
- PARTS
130-134 Presidential Primary Matching Funds
(Tues., June 8)

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MATCHING FUNDS RELEASED

On May 27, the FEC certified \$828,884.52 in Federal primary matching funds for nine Presidential candidates. This amount is in addition to \$3,209,783.31 which had been certified on May 21, along with \$1 million in Presidential nominating convention payments to the Democratic and Republican National Committees.

This raises to \$16,656,908.71 the total amount of primary matching funds certified this year by the Commission for 14 Presidential candidates, and to \$2,610,000.00 the total for the two major political party conventions.

The total certifications for the 14 qualified candidates are broken down as follows:

Birch Bayh	\$ 438,506.35
Lloyd Bentsen	\$ 511,022.61
James Carter	\$1,515,896.46
Frank Church	\$ 392,273.18
Gerald Ford	\$3,495,919.89
Fred Harris	\$ 613,802.57
Henry Jackson	\$1,980,554.95
Ellen McCormack	\$ 216,739.81
Ronald Reagan	\$2,537,478.91
Terry Sanford	\$ 246,388.32
Milton Shapp	\$ 297,311.80
Sargent Shriver	\$ 264,582.74
Morris Udall	\$1,361,235.09
George Wallace	\$2,785,196.03

The total amounts certified for the two major political parties are:

Democratic National Committee	\$1,360,000.00
Republican National Committee	\$1,250,000.00

The Federal Election Commission will continue to certify matching fund amounts on the first and third Mondays of each month, commencing June 7.

* * FEC REGIONAL SEMINARS * *

The Second Series of the FEC's Regional Seminar Program is in full swing. Fifteen seminars scheduled across the country will bring into focus the new and revised provisions of The Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976. FEC Commissioners and staff representatives of the legal, audit, and information departments will provide formal presentations, opportunities for question and answer periods, and informal workshops on detailed subjects. Information brochures and materials will be available for distribution.

In the second series the Commission is visiting cities not previously covered, and re-visiting several cities where there was particular interest in information on multi-candidate committees. Topics to be taken up include:

- The role of citizens and volunteers in Federal campaigns
- Requirements for individuals becoming candidates
- Contribution and spending limitations
- Political party activity in Federal campaigns
- Reporting and disclosure activities
- Fund-raising procedures and record-keeping
- The importance of voluntary compliance
- Complaint procedures

The seminar schedule is as follows:

Fri., June 11	*Washington, D.C.	Marvin Center George Washington University 800 - 21st St., N.W.
Mon., June 14	Indianapolis, Ind.	Indianapolis Airport Hilton Municipal Airport
Tues., June 15	*Chicago, Illinois	O'Hare Hilton O'Hare Airport
Wed., June 16	Minneapolis, Minn.	Sheraton-Ritz Hotel 315 Nicollet Mall
Fri., June 18	Albany, New York	Sheraton-Inn Towne Motor Inn 300 Broadway
Mon., June 21	Denver, Colorado	Sheraton-Denver Airport 3535 Quebec Street
Tues., June 22	Phoenix, Arizona	Adams Hotel Central and Adams
Wed., June 23	Austin, Texas	Hilton Inn 6000 Middle Fiskville Road
Fri., June 25	Cleveland, Ohio	Sheraton-Cleveland 24 Public Square
Mon., June 28	New Orleans, La.	Sheraton-Chateau Le Moyne 301 Rue Dauphine
Tues., June 29	Orlando, Florida	Sheraton-Towers Kirkman Rd. & Major Blvd.
Wed., June 30	Raleigh, N.C.	Sheraton-Crabtree Inn 4501 Creedmore Road

* Full program devoted to multi-candidate committees.

* * COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES * *

● Vernon W. Thomson, *Chairman -- (April 30, 1979)*. Mr. Thomson, 69, was a Republican Member of Congress from Wisconsin from 1961-75. Before that, he was his State's Governor (1957-59), attorney general (1951-57), and a member of the State legislature (1935-49). He holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and is a graduate of its law school.

● Thomas E. Harris, *Vice Chairman -- (April 30, 1979)*. Mr. Harris was associate general counsel to the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C. from 1955-75. He had held the same position with the CIO from 1948 until it merged with the AFL in 1955. Prior to that he was an attorney in private practice and with various government agencies. Harris, 63, is a native of Little Rock and a 1932 graduate of the University of Arkansas. He is a 1935 graduate of Columbia University Law School, where he was on the Law Review and was a Kent Scholar. After graduation, he clerked one year for Supreme Court Justice Harlan F. Stone.

● Joan D. Aikens -- (April 30, 1981). At the time of her appointment, Ms. Aikens was a vice president and account executive for Lew Hodges/Communications in Valley Forge, Pa. Aikens, 46, was president of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women while also a member of the board of directors of the National Federation of Republican Women from 1972-74. She was graduated from Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa., in 1950.

● William L. Springer -- (April 30, 1977). Mr. Springer was named to the Commission to replace Thomas B. Curtis

who asked not to be re-appointed. Springer is a former Vice Chairman of the Federal Power Commission. Prior to that appointment, he served as a Republican Member of Congress from the 22nd Illinois District for 20 years. Springer received his B.A. from DePauw University in 1931, his LL.B. from the University of Illinois in 1935, and a LL.D. from Millikin University in 1953.

● Neil Staebler -- (April 30, 1977). The Commission's first vice chairman, Staebler, 71, has been chairman of the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee (1950-61), a member of the National Democratic Committee (1965-68 and 1972-75), a one-term Member of Congress (1963-65), and a gubernatorial candidate in 1964 against former Gov. George W. Romney (1963-69), the incumbent. He served on President Kennedy's Commission on Campaign Financing in 1961 and was vice chairman of the 1970 Twentieth Century Task Force on Financing Congressional Campaigns. Staebler was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1926.

● Robert O. Tiernan -- (April 30, 1981). Mr. Tiernan served as a Democratic Member of Congress from Rhode Island for eight years, and prior to that as a State legislator for seven years. An attorney, he was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and is a graduate of Providence College and Catholic University Law School. Mr. Tiernan has been admitted to practice in all Federal courts, the State of Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia. He has held various national and State party positions.

Published by THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, 1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463. Commissioners are: VERNON W. THOMSON, Chairman; THOMAS E. HARRIS, Vice Chairman; JOAN D. AIKENS; WILLIAM L. SPRINGER; NEIL STAEBLER; ROBERT O. TIERNAN; FRANCIS R. VALEO, Secretary of the Senate, Ex-Officio; EDMUND L. HENSHAW, JR., Clerk of the House of Representatives, Ex-Officio.

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