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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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RELEASE: ON RECEIPT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1975

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FEC MAKES INITIAL "THRESHOLD"
PRIMARY MATCHING FUND DETERMINATION

WASHINGTON - NOVEMBER 20 - The Federal Election Commission today made an initial determination that five Presidential candidates have raised the "threshold" amount of small contributions necessary to qualify for federal matching funds.

The Commission accepted FEC staff reports that Lloyd Bentsen, Jimmy Carter, Henry Jackson, Terry Sanford, and President Ford, had each "collected in excess of \$5,000 in matchable contributions in amounts of \$250 or less in each of twenty states as required."

Similar determinations for additional Presidential candidates will be made by the Commission in future weeks.

Today's "threshold" determination does not constitute formal certification by the Commission for eligibility for federal matching funds. Certification of all eligible candidates will not be made until next month, and will cover all matchable funds collected in the first 10 months of 1975. No funds may be disbursed by the Treasury Department until after January 1, 1976.

The five candidates were each on an initial FEC "audit schedule" prepared after filing by candidates of their July 10, 1975, campaign finance reports. FEC staff review of the contributions of three other candidates on their initial "audit schedule", Fred Harris, Morris Udall, and George Wallace, have not been completed.

Similarly, FEC staff review has not been completed concerning contributions to four candidates placed on a second "audit schedule" prepared after the October 10, 1975 campaign finance reports were filed. These were Birch Bayh, Ronald Reagan, Milton Shapp, and Sargent Shriver.