

NEWS FROM...

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463

FOR RELEASE AFTER 10:00 A.M.,  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1979

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WASHINGTON -

"The public, the 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, Vice Chairman of the FEC, said today. Commissioner Tiernan and Commissioner Vernon W. Thomson appeared before the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration to testify in support of the FEC's 1980 budget request.

Tiernan reminded the Senators that the FEC was created in mid-1975 with little time to hire and train staff before the 1976 presidential race. Additionally, the Commission had to be reconstituted in 1976 as a result of a Supreme Court decision and was required to implement an entirely new election law in the middle of the election process. "The 1980 election will be the first presidential election for which the Federal Election Commission will have had an opportunity to fully prepare," he said. "In order to meet its responsibilities to the American taxpayers and to Congress, sufficient funds will be needed to implement all the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act," he continued.

According to the Commissioners' testimony, the FEC FY 1980 budget request of some \$10.7 million "represents the resources necessary to promote voluntary compliance with the law; to certify and review federal funds for presidential nominating conventions; to certify and review matching funds in the presidential primaries; to certify and review federal funds for the presidential general election; to provide easy access to the public for all information on campaign finance activity; and to verify and enforce the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act through audits and enforcement actions, including both conciliation and litigation, if necessary."