

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 13, 1979

CONTACT: FRED EILAND  
SHARON SNYDER  
(202) 523-4065 or toll free  
(800) 424-9530

## FEC RECOMMENDS ELECTION LAW REVISIONS

WASHINGTON - July 13, 1979 - A sharp reduction in reporting requirements for Federal candidates and political committees and encouragement of greater grass roots activity in political campaigns were among major recommendations made today by Robert O.

Tiernan, Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, in testimony before the Senate Rules Committee. The Committee is considering amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, last amended in 1976.

Chairman Tiernan's testimony emphasized three major areas in which the Commission suggested revisions to the existing campaign finance law: simplification of present reporting requirements, encouragement of grass roots political activity, and clarification of certain technical provisions in the law.

Of primary concern, according to the FEC, is the need to simplify the sometimes burdensome reporting requirements for federal candidates and their committees. If Congress adopts the FEC's recommendation, Chairman Tiernan said there would be a 60% reduction in the number of reports filed. However, Chairman Tiernan emphasized that this would not reduce disclosure by federal candidates, but would actually enhance disclosure by enabling better reporting. "With fewer reports to file, candidates and committees should be able to file more complete reports, with fewer errors,"

Commissioner Tiernan stated.

The FEC's second major proposal, arising from the concern expressed by party leaders and other experts in the campaign finance field, is that the current law has perhaps had a restricting influence on party and grass roots political activity and therefore needs to be amended to allow greater flexibility. The Commission has suggested that Congress lift some of the present restrictions to encourage spontaneous local volunteer efforts in the election process.

Chairman Tiernan also detailed to the Senate Committee certain technical changes recommended by the FEC which would clarify existing legal complexities in the law. Chairman Tiernan explained that the FEC is urging many of the changes in an effort to provide a better understanding of the law for candidates and committees as well as to enable the FEC to more efficiently carry out its responsibilities in administering the Act.