

Ford Calls Off The Watchdogs

Washington

President Ford summoned the chairman of the federal regulatory agencies to the White House yesterday and in the name of "maximum freedom for private enterprise" asked them to dispense with as much regulation as possible.

In effect, the President called for a reversal of the nearly century-long trend toward federal supervision of key industries and national resources aimed at regulating competition and representing consumer interests.

Mr. Ford said that the consumer interest can best be served "through the market place" rather than through governmental intervention.

"I feel quite deeply we must seriously consider the cost to consumers of all government activities and that includes regulatory agencies," the President said.

Most of the agency chiefs and other commissioners present spoke in support of Mr. Ford's basic objectives.

The independent regulatory agencies represented at the meeting were the Federal Power Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Maritime Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Trade Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

New York Times