

# Criticism Of Nixon's Voting Study



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JOHN W. GARDNER  
'A very poor idea'

## Washington

John W. Gardner, chairman of Common Cause, said yesterday that President Nixon's proposal for an election study commission is "a very poor idea" and only would delay or block urgently needed action on Watergate-related reforms.

Gardner urged Mr. Nixon to drop the idea and support various bills before Congress which would provide fast solutions to the problems of government secrecy and the "deep corrupting power of money on politics."

Gardner, a former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, additionally called for the resignation of Representative Wayne L. Hays (Dem-Ohio), as Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Hays also is chairman of the House Administration Committee, which has jurisdiction over campaign reforms. Gardner said this was like "sending the fox to guard the chickens."

Gardner was interviewed on the CBS television show "Face the nation."

Common Cause, a public interest lobby, is suing the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President to get full disclosure of GOP campaign contributions made before April 7, 1972, when the new federal elections law went into effect.

Gardner estimated the unreported, pre-April 7 donations total \$22 million, some of which is alleged to have financed the Watergate bugging and other reported political espionage and sabotage efforts in behalf of Mr. Nixon's re-election.

The President asked Congress last week to establish a commission to study reforms to prevent the sort of abuses disclosed in the Watergate scandal, and suggested consideration of a single, six-year term for presidents.

Gardner urged Mr. Nixon instead to "take the lead in endorsing reform measures needed to clear up this whole side of government," which could be debated at congressional hearings.

A study commission, he said, "really is a mortuary for action proposals . . . the effect will be to delay (or) bury the possibility of action."

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