

# Executives Bid Nixon Seek Reforms

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 20—The Committee for Economic Development, expressing its "deep concern about the erosion of public confidence in the democratic process," urged President Nixon today to "re-establish the integrity of the Presidential office."

The committee describes itself as "a nonprofit, nonpolitical research and policy organization of 200 corporate and university executives. Its board chairman is Emilio G. Collado, executive vice president of the Exxon Corporation."

"Public cynicism concerning the conduct of the presidency is at an all-time high," the organization said in a 16-page statement that recommended reforms in national and state elections.

Issued by the committee's 16-member program committee, the statement was based on studies of state and Federal governments over the last 10 years.

"In past months," the committee said, "the public has witnessed a dizzying revelation of scandal, corruption and wrongdoing in very high places."

Mr. Nixon's first corrective step, the committee said, should be "to make the fullest possible

disclosure to the American people of the sources, uses and amounts of funds collected in connection with the Presidential election of 1972."

The committee recommended that the President act "to increase accountability in his Administration through a more open government, one that encourages a free flow of information to the American people on the conduct of public business."

"Business has a major responsibility to help remedy the abuses of the election process, yet remarkably few corporations are advocating and sup-

porting election reforms," the group said.

The committee suggested that corporations encourage nonpartisan fund-raising and voter registration drives, and sponsor joint appearances of opposing candidates on radio and television. Costs for such activities are tax deductible, "but few corporations engage in such activities," the committee said.

The committee urged Congress to change its campaign financing, and that enforcement of disclosure laws be vested in the Controller General, who they said "is largely insulated from political pressures."