

subsequent to that there is a compulsory proposition to the effect that a part of that dollar is being forced to go to another party which that individual might not desire to help, even to the extent of 50 cents.

Mr. MILLS. The gentleman is completely accurate in that respect. Actually this is a voluntary contribution for good government. It presents both parties a chance to get their ideas across without having to beg for funds.

The main thing here is to stimulate people to take an interest in politics and to broaden the base, as my friend, the gentleman from South Carolina, said, of those who make these contributions to political campaigns.

I think it is much better to do it in one fund, and to divide it among the parties, than to use tax dollars for the purpose of electing a Democratic President per se, by designation, or a Republican President per se by designation. This is only \$4 in a presidential campaign. If the man wants to make a contribution to one of the parties in addition to that he may do so in addition to the \$4.

Mr. WATSON. Then we would both agree on this proposition that the initial designation of \$1 is a voluntary proposition?

Mr. MILLS. Absolutely.

Mr. WATSON. But thereafter the person is being compelled to?

Mr. MILLS. That is right. After that it goes to both parties.

Mr. WATSON. The person is being compelled to contribute to people and parties not necessarily of his choice?

Mr. MILLS. He has the right to designate a dollar to go into the presidential campaign fund. He does not have the right to say that it go to the Republican National Committee, or to the Democratic National Committee. If he puts it in there he will do so with the full knowledge that he is making that contribution toward the costs of the presidential campaign—the presidential campaign of both parties.

Mr. HARSHA. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield?

Mr. MILLS. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. HARSHA. If it were not operated in this way would you not soon use up the dollar in trying to categorize or collect the dollar and set aside every individual taxpayer's dollar to a particular candidate?

Mr. MILLS. I would think it would be much less expensive to do it the way the conference report has it.

Mr. HARSHA. Otherwise you would use up the dollar.

Mr. MILLS. Yes.

Mrs. GRIFFITHS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MILLS. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mrs. GRIFFITHS. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this is going to contribute to the growth of a third party.

I believe that the genius of American politics is that we have two parties, both of them largely occupying the middle of the road.

I think it is naive to assume that there are not organizations already in existence in the country that are already contributing to campaigns that could run their own candidates and their own President. If they are assured that this money can be transferred then to the taxpayer I think that it will contribute to such growth.

I would assume that it is possible that you could have a labor candidate. I would assume that it is possible that Mr. Wallace, as a States' Rights candidate, may run.

I would assume that it is possible that you could have a black power candidate.

I believe that these things should be considered.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, let me call the gentlewoman's attention to the fact that there is nothing here that provides any encouragement to the development of a third party or a fourth party or a fifth party. What we have here is a proposition that if the major parties are joined by a third party, that receives as much as 5 million votes in an election, that party is going to qualify for part of this dollar for the votes that they received above 5 million. But, that party has to get that many votes first on its own through some other means of financing, before it ever gets anything out of this fund. It has to be qualified first.

Mrs. GRIFFITHS. There are organizations available now that have the money to run the candidate, and that are already contributing to candidates.

So if they can rely upon the fact that in the future they are going to get it all paid back to them, to my mind I think you are building up toward the possibility of splintering American politics.

Mr. MILLS. The gentlewoman misunderstands when it gets it paid back. You do not finance a campaign in 1968 and then get paid enough money on the basis of 5 million votes received in that campaign.

Mrs. GRIFFITHS. They will have been putting it in all these years and in future years when they get more than 5 million votes they will get paid.

Mr. MILLS. Let me ask my good friend, the gentlewoman from Michigan if this is not worth a trial? That is the only thing I am asking you, to give it a trial. I am not saying it is going to work. I do not know whether it will or not. It is hard to get people to make a political campaign contribution. I know it—we all know it.

What I am concerned about is that we make some effort to interest more people