

I have said about all I care to say on the subject. I will close by saying I hope that some day, if I am here—and I hope I will be here long enough—I will see the House of Representatives stand up against the operations, irresponsible—I will use that word—the irresponsible operations we have experienced in this instance, and in instance after instance [P. 27095]

on the part of Members of the other body. This is not the way to legislate.

This particular idea is an interesting idea for financing campaigns. Frankly, it is no more than just that, an interesting idea that ought to be examined.

Mr. LONG of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from Arkansas yield to me?

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

Mr. LONG of Maryland. I am not sure the gentleman understood my question asked a while ago, when I asked about the audit system.

There are two aspects to this problem. One of course is what control the minority party could have over the question of whether there was an honest count of the amount of money that was to be handled.

Mr. MILLS. Let me explain how it will be handled.

Mr. LONG of Maryland. The other and more important question is how does one control the use of the money, let us say, by the Republican or Democratic National Committee? Suppose this were very successful and resulted in a nice, big windfall and they just decided to pay the chairman a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year? In other words, suppose they declared themselves an informal dividend.

What sort of control would there be over that?

Mr. MILLS. Let me answer the gentleman's first question first. The expenditures may be audited by the Comptroller General. They are certified, and submitted by the Democratic National Committee in behalf of the election of a Democrat or by the Republican National Committee in behalf of a Republican for President. I do not think the gentleman has to have any worry about the fact that this matter would be very carefully scrutinized in that respect. Then there is an advisory committee made up of members of both parties to aid in supervising it. I do not think any Republican member of that committee would allow the Democratic National Committee to fudge or vice versa.

There is no limitation with respect to the matter of whether a part of it could be used to pay a Democratic National committeeman a greater salary than he deserves or to pay a Republican National committeeman a greater salary than he deserves.

Mr. LONG of Maryland. I wonder if

I could ask the chairman one other question.

Mr. MILLS. Yes.

Mr. LONG of Maryland. Which I do not think would necessarily be very realistic, but it could be conceivable, I suppose. As Mr. DINGELL pointed out, third parties are notoriously ephemeral. Suppose you had a third party that managed to poll 7 million votes in 1968. It would not get that money in 1968, but, of course, it would get it in 1972. Suppose the party then virtually disappeared and all that is left is the national committee of that party that decided to get a couple of million dollars and decided to spend it in a very high, wide, and handsome way. Would you have any control over anything like that to keep that money from being dissipated and wasted?

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MILLS. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DINGELL. Will we then be placing the Appropriations Committee, which is sometimes a partisan body and oftentimes very partisan, in charge of expenditures by the recipients of this fund?

Mr. MILLS. I do not think the gentleman from Michigan would want to say that a Democratic Congress or a Republican Congress could not be fair in appropriating under the provisions of any act. Actually, however, the Appropriations Committee would be involved.

Mr. DINGELL. At least the gentleman from Arkansas will admit that what we are setting up is a situation where the Committee on Appropriations may at a time later scrutinize the activity of what has been previously preaudited by the great political parties of this country. Am I correct?

Mr. MILLS. You have the Comptroller General to supervise this and you have an advisory committee set up over people who are set up here on a bipartisan, basis aiding in the supervision. I do not think the parties are going to misuse this political fund.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further—

Mr. MILLS. No. I do not think they are going to misuse this fund.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I have one further question of the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas

Mr. Speaker, the rationale as I understand it for this proposal is to do away with the great fundraising efforts which are now handled and incurred by the two parties.

Mr. MILLS. That would be our hope, to broaden the base.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the simple answer to that is that this would be in addition to the funds which would be raised based upon the traditional manner and practices in which they have been raised heretofore.