

So I felt, under the circumstances—and I honor the Senator from Tennessee for his differing view—that it was better to vote for this measure and get something started than not to vote for it at all.

I apologize to the Senator from Tennessee for this interjection, but I wanted the RECORD to show the current status of the problem. It is a problem we must deal with, and I hope we shall deal with it at the next session of Congress. We must seek a method of comprehensive election reform and a revision of the Corrupt Practices Act, through some sensible approach provided by the legislature, with the aid of the executive, to deal with a vexing problem which is one of the great failures in our American democracy.

Mr. GORE. Mr. President, the distinguished senior Senator from Pennsylvania need not apologize for his interjection. I appreciate it. It is an able observation. The Senator has devoted much time and study to the subject. He has confessed that he considered this a half-baked measure when he voted for it on the floor of the Senate.

I wish to make a confession. When the proposal came to a vote in committee, out of love and respect for the chairman, against whose amendment we naturally did not like to vote, I did not vote on the first rollcall; but then when I discovered that all Democrats except me had voted for it and that all Republicans had voted against it, I suppose that a little partisan spirit of the occasion arose and I made a statement. I said, "Mr. Chairman, I wish now to be recorded, but before doing so I wish to state my reasons." I expressed the view then that this was not a measure of which I could fully approve but that it had the merit, I thought, of provoking discussion upon a very vital problem of our Republic. On that basis I voted to bring it to the floor of the Senate with no thought whatsoever that the Senate would seriously consider its adoption without other provisions being added. But here we are. I was perfectly astounded by the vote in the Senate. I was more astounded when the conference committee accepted it. Now, we are asked to take the last act before this really revolutionary political concept in our body politic becomes law.

Mr. President, I say that the measure needs reconsideration. "Half-baked" is not a sufficient adjective to describe the measure. Before I go into the measure in detail, which I shall now do, I wish to say, while the distinguished majority leader is on the floor, that I am grateful that several Senators have been listening to the debate and within a reasonable, but fairly brief period of time, after he is able to assure me of a yea-and-nay vote, I shall ask for a vote on a motion which I shall then present.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. GORE. I yield.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I cannot begin to express my deep appreciation to the Senator for what he has just said, because I had no idea what the situation would be. Therefore, I am all the more grateful, especially for notifying the Senate in advance.

Mr. GORE. Throughout our years of service, I have kept the Senator advised of my attitudes and moves. Although he has not always found himself in agreement, he has always been advised of them.

I want to be explicit. This may not be the last vote we will have, but I shall be prepared to ask for a vote.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Would the Senator from Tennessee want the Senator from Montana to state a specific time?

Mr. GORE. I would prefer to proceed. Is the Senator prepared to do so?

Mr. MANSFIELD. Yes.

Mr. MONRONEY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. GORE. I yield.

Mr. MONRONEY. Before the Senator leaves the matter of financial presidential campaigns—

Mr. GORE. I am only now coming to it.

Mr. MONRONEY. In the Senator's discussion thus far, no mention has been made of the inadequacy of the bill with respect to preconvention activities of presidential candidates.

Is this not one of the wide open areas: influence of large sums of money unaccounted for, unreported, not required to be reported for participation in capturing delegates of various States, or even in the act of campaigning in presidential primaries which are conducted in many States?

It seems to me that had hearings been held there would have been a greater

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focus on the full aspects of the financing of presidential campaigns instead of only November elections and the general elections.

Mr. GORE. I was going to point that out. I appreciate the suggestion of the able Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. MONRONEY].

Not only does the measure omit any reference to conventions, party caucuses, or primaries for presidential campaigns, it also omits any reference to senatorial or congressional campaigns. Yet most of us are members of one of the two major political parties.

That brings up a point I had not intended to mention at this time, but let us consider the question of parties.

Suppose Senator STROM THURMOND wants to run for President again. After all, he ran at one time on the Dixiecrat ticket and I believe he won a majority in seven States. Now, should Senator THURMOND, or Governor Wallace, or some