REGULATION OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1974

U.S. Senate,
Committee on the District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., in room 6226, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., presiding.

Present: Senator Mathias.
Staff present: Robert Harris, staff director and general counsel; and Colbert I. King, minority staff director.

Senator Mathias. The Committee on the District of Columbia is now in session to consider the matter of the regulation of political campaigns within the District of Columbia.

On March 28, I introduced S. 3264 for myself and each member of this committee. S. 3264 is a bill to regulate the conduct of campaigns within the District of Columbia for nomination or election to the offices of Mayor, councilman, and members of the Board of Education by establishing expenditure and contribution limitations applicable to such campaigns, by establishing requirements for reporting and disclosure of the financing of such campaigns, by establishing financial disclosure requirements for candidates and public officials, and by establishing an independent agency of the District to administer election laws generally.

OBJECTIVES OF S. 3264

The objectives of this bill are very simple:
1. To establish campaign financing practices which will generate confidence among District citizens in the integrity of the officials they select to govern them.
2. To insure that qualified candidates will not find their access to the political arena seriously conditioned by their financial resources.
3. To create an electoral process which promotes broad and active participation in the political system by citizens.
4. To remove a large part of the corrosive influence of big money and the abuses rooted in secrecy from the political campaigns and the new governing process.
5. And to provide financial disclosure for candidates, elected officials, and certain other officials of the District government as a means for lessening public distrust and improving the political process.

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