

More than you'll ever want to know about Ervin finances

By WILLIAM GREIDER

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WASHINGTON—Now it can be told. According to official documents obtained by the Washington Post, Sen. Sam Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, encountered the very same problem in his 1968 reelection campaign that plagued President Nixon in 1972—too much money.

The North Carolina senator, the documents reveal, had so much money he didn't know how to spend it all. He was fighting off contributors who wanted to give him more cash. He was giving away funds to other Democrats. He even made a pro rata refund to campaign donors, 20 cents on the dollar.

But Ervin still wound up with extra cash. Some folks wouldn't take their money back. So he sent the leftover money to a church, a nursing home and a hospital.

Of course, campaigning in North Carolina is considerably cheaper, especially if your name is Sam Ervin. The senator's election financing, even counting the leftovers, came to a grand total of \$30,931.92.

No wonder his eyebrows wiggle when the Watergate witnesses talk about secret suitcases stuffed with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Sen. Ervin also did not shred the records after his 1968 campaign. Nor did he send his campaign treasurer on a long vacation abroad.

Instead, he filed lengthy reports with the proper authorities, the State of North Carolina and the secretary of the state. The reports are available for inspection, if anyone cares to know that Mr. and Mrs. E. Russell Midkiff of Mount Airy, N.C., sent \$5, or that Harry Lee Orders of Glen Alpine, N.C. gave \$2 (and got 40 cents back, in postage stamps), and so forth.

In fact, the Ervin campaign of 1968 may be a classic case of over-accounting—more information than the law requires or anyone wants to know. But a careful reading of the Ervin reports reveals certain insights into how the successful politician operates. For instance:

Sen. Ervin likes to start the day with a hearty breakfast. The one he ate at the Red Room of the Hotel Sir Walter in Raleigh, N.C. on Aug. 18, cost \$2, and he spent \$2.69 for breakfast at the Lake Drive Motel in Chicago on Aug. 27 (where Ervin was attending the Democratic National Convention).

But he prefers a light lunch. One cost 50 cents at the Howard Johnson's in Winston-Salem on Aug. 17, hardly enough to buy a soda.

Ervin campaigns mostly by automobile, accompanied by his staff aide, Rufus Edmisten, as driver. They like to stop for gas at Stuckey's roadside stations (the ones that sell the pecan pralines). According to the documents, the senator and Edmisten often share the same lodgings at overnight stops.

Sen. Ervin, the documents also reveal, is a moderately big tipper, especially considering the spartan style of his campaign—a dollar to the bellboy at the Hotel Sir Walter, \$1.25 to the porter at the Charlotte airport, \$2 at O'Hare in Chicago.

Lest anyone question his trip to Chicago for the convention, the senator added a footnote to explain those expenditures: "Two of the contributors of amounts largely in excess of expenses incurred by the candidate in attending the Democratic National Convention expressly authorized the candidate to pay the cost of attending the convention out of their contributions."

Ervin had three opponents in the primary election that year and he received \$9,110 in contributions. That was a problem which was to plague him throughout the year—how to spend all that money. He concedes in his own report that he only managed to expend \$3,346.08 by the May 4 primary.

Still, the money rolled in for the fall general election. Ervin gave \$5,000 to the State Democratic Committee. He gave \$75 to the Drexel Community Fair, \$25 to the Young Democrats of Alexander County, and \$250 to the Watauga County Democratic Executive Committee, as well as other organizations of local Democrats.

These expenditures, as Ervin explained in his lawyerly way, were "to aid in defraying the cost of printing campaign material, political advertising and other activities tending to promote election of the candidate."

Still the surplus continued. He finished with contributions of \$20,931.92 which he personally received. But he was unable to spend \$3,855.60 of it. Two campaign committees set up in his behalf, one for the eastern end of the state and the other for the west, each got \$5,000 from the Democratic senatorial campaign committee in Washington.

The Western committee, according to an affidavit by its treasurer, Ben Whisnant from Ervin's home town of Morganton, managed to spend all its money. The eastern committee, according to its treasurer, Jack Spain of Greenville, still

had \$110.56 left on election day. So it sent the money back to Washington.

One reason Ervin had trouble spending money is that he did not buy any television time during the whole campaign. The Ervin strategy, it appears from the documents, was uncannily simple. He and Edmisten would drive down the road and, whenever they saw some voters, they would stop and chat.

In his own affidavit, however, senator Ervin insisted that he did the best he could to expend the funds. The report says:

"Although affiant (that's Ervin) did not solicit any campaign contributions for use in his quest for renomination and reelection as a United States senator, and although he declined to accept many contributions tendered to him by supporters, various contributions were voluntarily made to him by persons sharing his political philosophy."

That left him with a post-election problem—what to do with the \$3,855.60 still on deposit at the Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. in Morganton.

Senator Ervin sent refund checks to 111 contributors. However, he could not locate on John B. Williams III, who was apparently an overseas serviceman who sent \$5. In addition, several checks came back from the post office, marked "return to sender." Furthermore, six contributors refused their rebates.

Senator Ervin disposed of the money. Eight dollars to the First Presbyterian Church of Morganton, \$300 to the Cornelia Dixon Nursing Home of Wilmington, \$350 to Grace Hospital of Morganton.

His voluminous report does not describe everything about the campaign however. It doesn't say, for instance, that the senator won the election with 69 per cent of the vote, defeating a Republican lawyer from Salisbury, N.C., named Bob Sommers.

The report also doesn't indicate the Ervin re-election committee spied on his opponent, but the senator's aide, Rufus Edmisten, assured a reporter that it did not. "As a matter of fact," said Edmisten, "we never did know much about the fella."

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Cox's new shredder: clean, quiet

By PETE BOWLES
(C) 1973, Newsday

WASHINGTON—Keeping up with the times, the office of special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox has purchased a shredding machine that, according to its advertising, "shreds cleanly with a quiet hush."

A spokesman for Cox, James Doyle, said the machine, a Cross-cut 200 costing \$620, will be used to destroy "investigative material which we no longer need" that possibly could "affect the rights of individuals" if it fell into the wrong hands.

Asked if Cox was trying to stay ahead of the competition—namely former White House aides who destroyed vital Watergate documents, Doyle said: "We certainly are not planning to use the machine or the burning to destroy evidence. Any suggestion that we would do that is ridiculous." He said the acquisition of the machine represents "a serious effort to eliminate the improper disclosure of loose documents."

A brochure on the Cross-cut 200, which is manufactured by the Shred Master Corp. of Freeport, L.I., boasts that it: "turns paper into micro-bits instantly!" It goes on to say that the machine, which also shreds microfilm, is "the ultimate in security. It shreds paper into tiny confetti-like bits...makes everything completely unreadable." The Cross-cut 200 is about 18 inches square and is three feet tall.

Haldeman was 'Welcome,' Ehrlichman was 'Wisdom'

By MICHELE McLELLAN

(C) 1973, The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON—Secret code names have cropped up in the senate Watergate hearings, but they are nothing new to the White House. Their use to describe people, projects and places can be traced at least back to the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration.

It has been brought out in the hearings that such labels as "Ruby," "Gemstone" and "Sedan Chair" were used at times to camouflage questionable activities.

But according to White House Deputy Press Secretary Gerald Warren (also known as "Weightlifter"), such names, or "voice call signs," usually are devised by the Secret Service and are used primarily for radio communication when the President travels.

Most recently a name beginning with the letter "W" denoted high rank in the White House staff. Under this system, former presidential counsel John Ehrlichman was dubbed "Wisdom," and press secretary Ronald Ziegler "Whaleboat." President Lyndon Johnson's domestic affairs counsel, Marvin Watson, was also known as "Wisdom."

In some instances assigned code names hardly resemble the bearer. Stern, forbidding former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was given the name "Welcome."

President Nixon's code name has not been made public. But the presidential homes are referred to by code, with the Key Biscayne estate called "Sword Fish" and the San Clemente home "Storm King."

In the Johnson administration, the LBJ ranch was known as "Volcano." President Johnson, who had been vice president in the John F. Kennedy administration, and Mrs. Johnson retained their code names from the Kennedy years: "Volunteer" and "Victoria."

One Johnson staffer, a bachelor coded as "Wildcat," used to call the White House switchboard regularly for messages, so the story goes. Didn't seem to be too popular, and following repeated calls, with no messages received, the switchboard operator finally quipped: "No, Wildcat. And from now on your code is Pussycat."

During both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, the White House was called "Castle," while the executive residence area was "Crown." The presidential plane and the White House garage were referred to as "Angel" and "Carpet."

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