Many Candidates Get Around Reports on Campaign Expenses

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune
Washington Correspondent

Washington —(Special)— A candidate for Congress in Connecticut has filed a financial campaign report under the corrupt practices act which reveals that his campaign expenditures included $175 to Old McDonald's Farm of Norwalk for "use of elephant."

Smith

Besides revealing that Daniel Reinhardsen Jr. thought the beastly symbol of his party would be helpful if paraded in the flesh, his listing of it illustrates that he took seriously the federal requirement of corrupt practices act that candidates for Congress disclose where they got their money and how they have been spending it to influence the voters.

Many other candidates this year were not so faithful to the spirit or intent of the law designed to let voters know before they vote something about the sources of the candidates' money and the amounts being spent. A spot check of reports filed by candidates in a number of states from coast to coast shows that a good many have played hide and seek with the voters.

Party affiliation has nothing to do with the way individual candidates responded to the law which requires that they file with the clerk of the House or the secretary of the Senate "a correct and itemized account of each contribution received by him or by any person for him with his knowledge or consent, from any source, in aid or support of his candidacy for election, or for the purpose of influencing the result of the election, together with the name of the person who has made such contribution; (and) a correct and itemized account of each expenditure made by him or by any person for him . . . (etc.)."

No Contributions

In Massachusetts, for example, the Democratic senatorial candidate, Edward (Ted) Kennedy, has filed a report which states he received no contributions and spent nothing. Presumably the President's brother isn't anxious to reveal before election day the amount he is really spending, for political observers report that from all outward signs it looks like at least a million dollar effort.

In Pennsylvania, the Republican senatorial candidate, Rep. James Van Zandt, has also filed a blank report which claims his only expenditure was a $50 filing fee, which he needn't have reported under the law. Presumably Congressman Van Zandt would just as soon not reveal where his money is coming from and in what amounts; but his leadership in the fight against the Hanford atomic power reactor bill, which the private electric and coal lobbies tried hard to kill, would make Van Zandt's financial books of his campaign interesting reading.

In both these states, the rival candidates have filed reports which evidently make only partial disclosure. Republican George Lodge reports $9,387 in contributions and $3,500 in expenditures in Massachusetts; Democratic Sen. Joseph Clark listed about $30,000 in contributions but showed no expenditures in Pennsylvania.

One well known senatorial candidate who made what appears to be a fairly candid report is the Senate GOP leader, Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen. His report claimed about $112,000 in expenditures. Curiously it listed only $56,225 in contributions. His challenger, Rep. Sidney Yates, listed only $15,289 in expenditures and $21,396 in contributions.

Candid Report

The most candid report in the Northwest states, if not the whole nation, was filed by the Lutheran minister who challenged Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.). Richard G. Christensen filed a list of some 1,500 individual contributors whose gifts to his campaign totaled $83,168.02. He even identified one list as the doctors who were backing his candidacy, perhaps in reaction to Magnuson's support of Medicare.

Sen. Magnuson reported contributions of $40,312, including $35,000 from the "Magnuson Dinner Committee" — yet that dinner raised about a quarter million dollars from the sale of 2,786 tickets at $100 per head.

In Oregon the GOP candidate, Sig Unander, filed a blank report similar to that of Kennedy and Van Zandt. The report of Sen. Wayne Morse claimed $45,121 — but it failed to show some $20,000 which a number of national labor political action committees reported they put into Morse's campaign.

In California the Democratic challenger, Richard Richards, filed a blank report. The GOP incumbent, Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, reported $7,184 in contributions and the same amount in expenditures.

Candidates who dodge the intent of the law by filing blank or safely hedged reports usually defend this practice, as did Unander, on grounds that their funds were handled by a committee — and under the law there is no requirement that an intrastate committee must file a financial report, only interstate committee must file.

This loophole was not foreseen by the drafters of the corrupt practices act back in 1925 when it was enacted, so efforts have been made to plug up this loophole. The Senate most recently in 1960 passed a "clean elections" bill to tighten the corrupt practices act in several ways, including a requirement that intrastate committees file financial reports. The House, however, failed to act on the bill, so this reform effort failed.

Another reform envisioned in that bill was that campaign reports be filed with the clerk of the U. S. District Court where they would be open to inspection locally where the election campaign is being conducted. This might also offer hope for enforcement of the law's intent.

Today the reports go to the clerk of the House and secretary of the Senate, both of whom have a kind of courthouse politician's solicitude for the political safety of congressional candidates. The corrupt practices act carries stiff penalties — up to two years in jail and $10,000 fine — for willful violations. But it has become an established custom to violate its intent, and there is no record of the clerk or the secretary recommending prosecution.

The only possible penalty today is indignant voter reaction when the press fulfills its responsibility to report what the candidates are up to.

Grange News

Greenhorn Grange

Yreka – A program and convention reports highlighted the meeting of Greenhorn Grange for the booster night held recently in the Grange hall.

Convention reports were given by District Deputy and Mrs. Vayne Ralston, Mr. and Mrs. Slvin Lewis, the Scott Valley Grange master and his wife; and Mrs. Ray Wheeler, wife of Greenhorn Grange master. District Deputy Ralston was elected state Grange committeeman at the convention.

Mrs. Joe Lewellyn, lecturer presented the following program: skit, "Trip to the Fair," by Gladys Washington and Frieda Hoskins; "Woodrats Musicale," by Mary Baum, Vera Clements and daughters, Christina and Caroline, Lorena Michels and daughter, Lee Ann, and Linda Hughes; accordion selection by Tommy Freeman; song, "Now the Day Is Over," by Ernie and Kim Dittner; songs, "Alice Blue Gown" and "Sail Along Silvery Moon," sung and whistled by Jerry Dittner, accompanied at the piano by Stan Gifford; piano solo by Stan Gifford, a visitor who is postmaster at Travis Air Force base, and two songs, by the audience with Mr. John Cawley as accompanist.

A potluck supper was served by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Eastlick, chairmen; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walters, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hagedorn and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vizzi.

TIMELY TRIP OUTDOORS

Ciey, England —(UPI)— Ernest Brett, 87, saved his life Tuesday when he stepped into his garden for a pair of shears. While he was outside, a chimney collapsed and showered hundreds of pounds of rubble on the fireside armchair he left moments before.

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Machinists Agree To Delay Boeing Strike

Washington—(UPI)—President Kennedy said Tuesday night the International Association of Machinists (AFL-CIO) had agreed to postpone a strike against the Boeing Co. at least until Jan. 15.

The postponement will allow Boeing employees to vote on whether to have a union shop, one of the primary issues between the company and the union.

VERTICAL EXEC PLANE

Caldwell, N.J. —(UPI)— The first vertical take-off aircraft designed for civil executive use, the Curtiss-Wright 200, is expected to be in production and test flights by mid-1963.

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Town & Country TOILET SEATS 5.95 Value 2.99
SUNLAND DRINK AND WET DOLL 2.50 Value 1.98
CROCHET THREAD Limited To Stock On Hand Reg. 35c 19c
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