

**SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
★ SAYS ★**



After two weeks of debate, the Senate voted last week to repeal the Presidential Campaign Fund Act of 1966 which allows a taxpayer to pay a dollar with his Federal income tax return for the Presidential campaign of major political parties.

During the debate, the Senate reduced the dollar contribution to fifty cents, and then defeated the whole plan. The matter now goes to the House for its consideration. Defeat of the Act came by virtue of a Senate rider to the seven percent investment credit bill currently under Congressional consideration.

I voted to repeal the Presidential campaign financing act, because I think the legislation is impractical in administration and has many flaws which defeat its stated objectives of improving election financing.

The legislation was enacted in haste at the end of the last Congress. It is vague and difficult to administer. It will not correct the evils it seeks to conquer even under the most optimistic view of the legislation. Simply stated, the 1966 Act is said to be a means of permitting every man and woman to become a candidate for President. In practice, the Act does not permit this. It does not touch Presidential nomination costs.

Nowadays securing the Presidential nomination of a major political party costs a fantastic sum and often the candidate

spends large amounts of money over a period of years to get well enough known to be a realistic contender for the nomination. To date, no one has devised a means whereby the Federal Government could dispense tax funds to every potential candidate for the Presidency and not bankrupt the Treasury.

The Act has other major defects. It would give whatever amounts the taxpayers contribute under its provisions to political parties that received 5 million or more votes at the last Presidential election. In practice, this would likely mean that monies collected would go to the Democratic and Republican parties, but it could mean that funds might go to the Communist or Socialist parties.

Taxpayers are unlikely to donate by the millions to such an unregulated fund. Moreover, most Americans have strong opinions about who shall receive their political contributions. They usually do not want the opposition party to have half of their contribution. Yet, the Act dispenses the contribution to each major political party

McGUFFEY IN BOOT CAMP

Seaman Recruit James M. McGuffey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. McGuffey of 2318 Woodview Road, Kinston, is undergoing nine weeks of basic training at the Naval Training Center at San Diego.



Calumet Farms, Ky.—Visions of roses dance in the heads of these four three-year-old candidates for May Kentucky Derby honors at Churchill Downs as they give an inquisitive once over to the newest "equine" three-year-old, the Ford Mustang. The most popular new car of all time, the Mustang's third birthday is this April. The colts and fillies are (from left to right) Hugable by Warfare out of Lap Full by Bull Lea; Little Friend by Bull Imp out of Midsummer Fair by Big Game; Mademoiselle by Choquette out of Nashua Real by Bull Lea, and Tim's Princess by Tim Tam out of Princess Turin by Heliopolis. A fifth pair of ears, visible behind Mademoiselle, belong to the colt, Nippy, who was anxious to lead his paddock mates on a romp over the bluegrass.

and not according to the taxpayer's personal notion.

There is no assurance that the distribution of federal tax funds to the chairman of the two major political parties will make democracy work any better than it operates under voluntary contributions, for such a federal system could dispense with reliance by the parties upon local opinions about the campaign and the candidates.

A federal bureaucracy doling out dollars to national political parties could create parties that reflected no individuality or responsible mandate from the peo-

ple. Many who have studied the "Long check-off campaign financing plan" feel that it does little to solve the problems of campaign financing or permitting candidates to represent the broader interests of the people.

Few doubt that campaign financing needs a general overhaul, but there should be a better alternative than that of perpetuating the 1966 Act which solves little and probably will accomplish less.

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