

## D. C. Committees Common

# Many Senators Run On Secret Funds

By JAMES R. POLK

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign money have been given U.S. senators through hidden fund-raising groups set up in Washington, where a loophole lets the lawmakers keep the contributions secret.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana and his GOP counterpart, Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, head the list of candidates using the hidden committees to help bankroll their re-election races this year.

Labor groups are making large donations to another Washington committee set up for Sen. Harrison A. Williams, D-N.J., who is in line to become chairman of the Senate Labor Committee if he wins.

IN POLITICAL circles, the hidden campaign groups are known as "D.C. committees."

The District of Columbia—in contrast to the home states of most senators—has no laws requiring public disclosure of money raised and spent for candidates.

As a result, dozens of senators and congressmen have "D.C. committees" set up here to raise campaign funds, particularly from lobbies.

Names of the hidden committees came to light in a study of the detailed list of donations that other political groups, such as those for labor organizations or industry lobbies, must file with Congress.

THE RECORDS SHOW groups representing restaurants, coal, cable TV, steelworkers, Teamsters, shipping and savings associations are among the contributors to "D.C. committees." Even the Republicans and Democratic national campaign chests have funneled large chunks of money to their candidates through these groups.

Sen. Winston L. Prouty, R-Vt., locked in a tough battle this fall, has at least four "D.C. committees" set up to get money from the GOP. His Democratic foe, former Gov. Philip H. Hoff, has at least two committees here, also.

AMONG OTHERS using the device are:

Sens. Joseph M. Montoya, D-N.M.; Frank E. Moss, D-Utah; William Proxmire, D-Wis.; Ralph T. Smith, R-Ill.; Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, running for the Senate from Minnesota.

Many of the D.C. committees have raised as much as \$50,000 or more. But few are willing to tell.

However, interviews and reports of various political groups traced at least \$386,761 as being channeled into various Senate candidates' D.C. committees.

THE TRUE total may be many times that amount. Because of the lack of reporting requirements, some D.C. committees could stay hidden forever.

And, as one Senate aide said, "I gather that every senator here has a committee like these."

The loophole in reporting laws has been recognized for years, but chances of it ever being plugged are slim—mainly because the legislators who use it are the only ones who can close it.

However, the fund-raising groups have become more controversial because of recent bribery charges against former Sen. Daniel B. Brewster, D-Md.

THE INDICTMENT, which was dismissed by a judge this month, charged that \$24,500 had been routed to Brewster as a bribe from a mail order company lobbyist through a hidden group called the "D.C. Committee for Maryland Education."

Another group, the "D.C. Committee for Montana Progress," was reported to be involved in the Justice Department probe on postal rates. It was set up for Rep. Arnold Olsen, D-Mont., a House postal subcommittee chairman.

In a rare step this year, a reelection committee set up in Washington for Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, the presidential hopeful, filed a full public report with Congress voluntarily.

MUSKIE'S local treasurer lists \$163,000 raised by this group going into October. Many of the contributors are scattered throughout the nation, including such donors as the chairman of the board of IBM.

Labor is pouring some of its largest contributions this fall into a hidden fund-raising group known as the "Harrison A. Williams D.C. Committee."

If he wins, Williams is slated to become chairman of the Senate Labor Committee as a result of the defeat of Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough, D-Tex., in a spring primary.