

# Political Coffers

By Morton Mintz

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Candidates and political committees already have \$24.3 million on hand for elections in 1974—and even 1976 and later.

One senator, George McGovern (D-S.D.) has \$213,272 for his re-election race this year in South Dakota. He has another \$469,442 left over from his 1972 presidential bid. Some of that money is to be used to pay bills, but McGovern hasn't said what he plans to do with the balance.

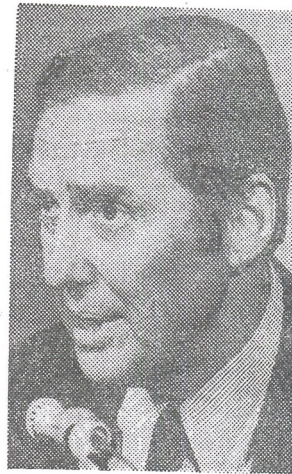
Another senator, Lloyd M. Bentsen (D-Tex.), has amassed \$365,675—more than any of his colleagues—for his next race, which isn't until 1976. Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), who doesn't run again until 1978, has \$352,509.

The figures were reported yesterday by the Center for Public Financing of Elections, on the basis of a study of filings as of Dec. 31 with the General Accounting Office, the secretary of the Senate and the clerk of the House. They supervise the election-financing law that took effect in 1972.

The center, a bipartisan lobbying group that commissioned Kent Cooper of Cam-



EDWARD W. BROOKE



LLOYD M. BENTSEN

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paign Finance Surveys to make the study, contends that quick action is needed on reform legislation.

The co-directors of the center, Susan King and Neal Gregory, pointed out that in the final third of 1973, \$21.6 million was raised and almost \$18 million spent.

They emphasized that this occurred after the Senate, in July, had passed a bill to tighten the 1972 law with new disclosure requirements and limits on contributions and expenditures.

The Senate bill has been pending in the House Administration Committee. Its chairman, Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D-Ohio), is also chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee—a prime source of funds of House Democrats.

A bill for public financing of most federal elections—a more drastic proposal than the pending bill—was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Feb. 7.

The largest amount of cash on hand at year's end reported by a special-interest committee, \$1,325,408, was listed by the political arm of Associated Milk Producers, Inc. Mid-

America Dairymen, Inc., accounted for an additional \$306,957, and Dairymen, Inc., for \$250,861. The three cooperatives gave \$427,500 to President Nixon's 1972 campaign.

The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, along with one relatively minor Nixon organization, listed cash on hand of \$3,638,259. This sum was the largest reported for any candidate or organization. The Finance Committee raised most of the \$60 million collected for the Nixon nomination and re-election drives.

The committee's left-over funds are sought by the Republican National Committee, but its chairman, George H. Bush, has indicated that the

# Already Loaded

matter will remain in abeyance pending the outcome of litigation against the committee.

Bentsen, a possible 1976 presidential candidate, McGovern and Brooke led a group of nine senators each of whom had at least \$100,000 in the kitty on Dec. 31. Ranking fourth was Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo.) with \$270,133. His term expires next January. The others, all up for reelection this year.

Bob Dole (R-Kans.), \$207,952; Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), \$188,177; Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), \$179,404; Henry L. Bellmon (R-Okla.), \$149,198, and Frank Church (D-Idaho), \$111,388.

Among House members, the three leaders were Reps. Spark M. Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), \$126,347; Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), \$74,004, and Bob Wilson (R-Calif.), \$60,935. They were among 26 congressmen who listed year-end cash on hand of at least \$25,000 in reports to the clerk of the House.

Other highlights of the cash-on-hand study:

- GOP committees operating in Washington and around the nation reported a total of \$2,845,342.
- Various Democratic committees reported \$2,215,431.
- House candidates and their personal committees reported \$2,667,098.
- The 34 senators whose terms expire in 1975 reported \$1,928,123; seven whose terms expire in 1977 reported \$411,020, and 33 whose terms end in 1979 listed \$629,259.
- Besides the milk committees, units reporting at least \$250,000 were MEBA (Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, AFL-CIO) Retirees Fund, \$565,741; Transportation Political Education League, \$338,472; United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO, Political Action Fund, \$309,127; ILGWU International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL-CIO, Campaign Committee, \$289,647.
- Possible presidential candidates listed: Gov. George C. Wallace, \$103,751; Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.), \$46,981.

Among area congressmen, only Rep. Joel T. Broyhill (R-Va.), with \$41,616, was among the 26 with cash on hand exceeding \$25,000.

Associated Milk Producers, largest of the milk committees, reported that its political arm gave \$5,000 on Dec. 14 to help establish the John C. Stennis Chair in Political Science in Mississippi State University's Agricultural Economics Department. Stennis, a Democrat, is the senior senator from Mississippi.

The political arm, known as C-TAPE, reported that in the final three months of 1973 it also gave \$3,000 to a Texas fund-raising dinner for Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), and \$1,500 to a dinner in Chicago for Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III (D-Ill.).

Also during the same time period, the political unit of Dairymen, Inc., called ADEPT, listed \$5,000 for Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.), \$2,000 for Rep. Matsunaga, \$1,250 for Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), and \$1,000 each for Reps. William J. Scherle (R-Iowa), Hugh L. Carey (D-N.Y.), William R. Roy (D-Kan.), E. G. Shuster (R-Pa.) and James R. Jones (D-Okla.). The Democratic National Committee got \$10,000.