

# Campaign Subsidies

## Unit Named

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By Steve Gerstel

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Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats named a seven-member panel yesterday to assist him in the program of federal subsidies for 1976 presidential candidates.

Under an informal agreement reached by the newly named Election Fund Advisory Board, Henry Ford II, chairman of the board of the Ford Motor Co., will be named chairman when the panel holds its first meeting next year.

Staats is responsible for running the program, which would provide tax funds for the presidential campaigns. The money would come from the \$1 checkoff provision on income tax forms.

The program raised only \$2 million to \$3 million last year when the checkoff went into effect for the first time. The checkoff space will be more prominently displayed on the 1973 forms.

Under present law, candidates would have the option of raising their own funds or accepting the federal subsidy.

The Senate this year approved legislation making the public financing of presidential elections mandatory and extending the system of subsidies to presidential primaries and Senate and House races. The House, however, took no action.

Campaign financing irregularities that came to light during Watergate-related investigations have triggered congressional demands that some action be taken to control the sources of campaign funding.

Specifically, Staats would be responsible or certifying payments to eligible candidates and for auditing their campaign expenditures.

He said, "The significance of this board may become even greater if additional responsibilities are placed upon the comptroller general relating to campaign financing, as contemplated by various legislative proposals pending before the new Congress."

In addition to Ford, Staats named former Assistant Treasury Secretary Eugene Rosides and author Lew Wasserman from the public sector.

Appointed to represent the Democratic Party were National Chairman Robert S. Strauss and party Treasurer C. Peter McColough. Picked to represent the Republicans were National Chairman George Bush and presidential adviser Bryce Harlow, who is expected to leave the administration soon.

Members announced earlier were House Speaker Carl Albert, House Republican Leader John J. Rhodes, Senate GOP Leader Hugh Scott and Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield.