

Tax Group's Report

Contributors to Mills' Campaign

Washington

A citizens' tax research group said yesterday that more than half the campaign funds received for Representative Wilbur D. Mills' 1972 presidential campaign came from milk, oil and financial groups.

The Public Citizens' Tax Reform Research Group charged that each of these groups "had some special interest in receiving favorable legislative treatment from Mills' tax committee."

Mills, an Arkansas Democrat who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, spent \$274,836.13 on his abortive presidential bid and contributions reported totaled \$231,027.11. The research group said.

It said milk interests con-

tributed \$60,100 — 26 per cent of Mills' campaign funds.

The report noted that "perhaps one of the most controversial legislative favors was the proposal of milk price supports which was introduced by Mr. Mills in January, 1973.

Mills was unavailable to comment on the charges, but he was asked about milk co-op contributions on a television show last night. He said the co-ops gave about \$45,000 during "the so-called draft Mills period," but that was long before he became an active candidate. He said he would not have taken the funds had he known about them.

Robert Brandon, the tax group's director, said that as Ways and Means chair-

man for 17 years Mills has done more to shape present tax laws than any other man in government.

"You don't have to look very far to see why those tax laws are stacked in favor of corporate interests and wealthy individuals at the expense of middle-income families," Brandon said.

The tax data was compiled from campaign reports and legislative studies, the group said, and showed these donations:

- Milk groups: \$60,100.

- Energy: \$33,400, with contributions from oil interests making up the largest part. "The largest single donation was the \$15,000 illegal cash contribution from Gulf Oil." (Gulf executive Claude

C. Wilde pleaded guilty to making the contribution Nov. 13, 1973.)

Real estate: \$33,400.

- Financial interests (savings and loans, commercial banks, stocks and bonds, insurance): \$29,902.

- Lawyer interests: \$26,702.

Utilities: \$16,133.88.

- Banking: \$14,700.

- Construction: \$9,650.

- Brewers: \$7,200.

- Medical interests: \$7,015.

The report also listed lesser contributions, including individual gifts.

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