

# Authorities Probe Apparent Suicide Of Md. Rep. Mills

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Federal and state authorities continued yesterday their investigation into the shotgun death of Rep. William O. Mills, the Maryland Republican who received a \$25,000 contribution for his 1971 campaign that went unreported.

Justice Department sources said that none of the seven notes reportedly left behind by Mills detailed why he shot himself Thursday, which he apparently did, or what the assertion in one note of an "impending scandal" referred to.

These sources said the FBI was continuing to receive reports of the state investigation. The FBI, sources said, was interested in knowing whether the \$25,000 contribution to the Mills campaign from a fund of President Nixon's re-election committee was used for a purpose other than normal campaign activities.

The 48-year-old Mills, an affable two-term congressman from Maryland's First Congressional District, was found early Thursday morning in front of a horse barn about three miles from his Easton home. The congressman, police reported, apparently killed himself with a 12-gauge shotgun.

The autopsy of Mills, performed by state deputy chief medical examiner Dr. Ronald N. Kornblum, showed no alcohol in Mills's blood, according to Kornblum. He said that additional tests were continuing. Kornblum said on Thursday that Mills died of a single shotgun wound to the chest. He said there was no other evidence of injury on the body.

Mill's Capitol Hill office

was closed yesterday, as was his district office in Easton, on the Eastern Shore. The congressman was mourned by his colleagues on the Hill and his friends back home on the Eastern Shore.

A note pinned to Mills's body was paraphrased by officials close to the investigation as saying, "I've done nothing wrong but there is no way I can prove it. This is the only way out."

Officials and Mills's constituents on the Eastern Shore speculated that the congressman was referring to the \$25,000 contribution which was disclosed by the General Accounting Office in a report made public last Saturday. On Wednesday, The Washington Post reported that the Mills campaign had never reported the \$25,000 to the Maryland Board of Elections, an apparent violation of state law.

The money was transferred in cash in April, 1971, when Mills was seeking the First District congressional seat in a special election made necessary by the resignation of former Rep. Rogers C. B. Morton (R-Md.). Morton resigned to become Secretary of the Interior and endorsed Mills, his administrative assistant, as his successor. Mills went on to defeat State Sen. Robert Bauman in the Republican primary and State Sen. Elroy Boyer in the general election.

Mills later won re-election in the regular 1972 general election. His seat must now be filled by a special election to be proclaimed by Gov. Marvin Mandel. For the largely rural Eastern Shore, it will be the fourth congressional race since 1970.