



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Expressive hand emphases point as Dean tells the Watergate committee that he will stand on his record.

# Montoya's Campaign Finances Probed

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By George Lardner Jr.

New Mexico state officials ordered a check yesterday of Democratic Sen. Joseph M. Montoya's 1970 campaign financing report to determine whether any state laws were violated.

The step was taken in response to a report in *The Wall Street Journal* that Montoya's fund raisers used dummy committees in Washington to hide the origins of as much as \$100,000 in contributions from labor organizations and special-interest groups.

The only campaign financing report Montoya and his aides submitted in New Mexico — that of the state-based Montoya for Senator Club — failed to disclose these contributions, the *Journal* reported.

In addition, the chairman of the club, David B. Hamilton, told *The Washington Post* in a telephone interview that the notarized signature attesting to the report under the name of "David Hamilton" was not his.

"The handwriting is not mine," he said.

A member of the Senate Watergate committee, Montoya denied any improprieties in a statement on the *Journal* story.

Asked for comment on the Hamilton signature, Montoya's press secretary, James

Boyer, said he doubted the senator would have anything more to say.

"He's not going to go on and on and on about this," Boyer said. "He thinks he covered it."

New Mexico Secretary of State Betty Fiorina said state legislation in effect in 1970 was "ambiguous" on the question of whether funds raised by out-of-state committees for candidates on the state ballot had to be reported.

She said, however, that reports that are filed are supposed to be submitted under an oath "executed and subscribed by the chairman and treasurer of the political committee" filing them.

Mrs. Fiorina said she has started a review of the Montoya for Senator Club report and all other reports filed in the state's 1970 campaigns for any possible violations. She said she has also asked the state attorney general's office for an opinion on whether the funds routed to Montoya's campaign by the Washington-based committees had to be reported.

"We're going to do it as best we can," she said. "We've never gotten any flak about this before."

Some \$57,000 from the political action arms of various unions, such as the Retail Clerks, the Steelworkers and the Teamsters, and another \$45,000 from interest groups such as construction

contractors, restaurant owners and scrap dealers, were received by D.C.-based dummy committees such as Citizens for Montoya, Friends of Montoya and Boosters for Montoya, the *Journal* reported.

The state-based Montoya for Senator Club, however, reported receipts and expenditures of only \$75,309.88, much of it in small contributions reflecting only a tiny fraction of the senator's union support.

The practice was common under the loophole-ridden Federal Corrupt Practices Act then in effect, but the *Journal* quoted Lucille C'De Baca, director of the state elections bureau under Mrs. Fiorina, as indicating that state law may have been violated. "It doesn't matter where the committee is located," she reportedly stated. "All must file reports."

Montoya maintained otherwise. "The receipts and expenditures relating to New Mexico have been handled properly," he said in his statement. "I assume the District of Columbia committees did everything according to law."

The senator's statement ignored a \$1,000 contribution from the Meat Cutters' political fund that was said to have gone directly to the state-based Montoya for Senator Club, but was not

included in the club's accounting.

"It was just a supplement to the main (campaign) organization," erstwhile chairman Hamilton said of the club, although he said he knew of no other financing reports filed with the state. "We haven't been fussy in the past."

For example, he said, Montoya's 1970 television campaign ads were broadcast as paid for by the "Montoya for Senator Club, David Hamilton, chairman," but, he said, "we did not spend the money."

He said he recently obtained a Xerox copy of his club's financial report, which was notarized on Dec. 3, 1970, after hearing that he was supposed to have signed it. "I wish it was my signature on that thing," he said.

## TV to Cover Hearings Today

All three major television networks will carry live coverage of today's testimony by former presidential counsel John W. Dean III before the Senate Select Watergate committee.

NBC-WRC (Channel 4), ABC-WMAL (Channel 9) will begin their coverage at 10 a.m. WETA (Channel 26), the public broadcasting system, will rebroadcast the hearings at 8 p.m.

