

# Some in Congress Making Financial Disclosures in

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 23—In recent weeks at least six Senators and Representatives have published in the Congressional Record their income tax returns or reports on their personal finances.

At least two Representatives and one Senator, in the wake of the Watergate scandals, have announced that they will not accept contributions larger than \$100 in their re-election campaigns this year. A third Representative has said he will not accept any campaign contributions.

In addition, a member of the House Agriculture Committee announced the sale of his cattle ranch and put most of the proceeds into a blind trust to avoid any conflict of interest, and a wealthy Senator turned control of his personal assets over to a similar blind trust.

The voluntary disclosures, the trust arrangements and the self-imposed limits on campaign funds go well beyond what is required of the elected members of Congress and represent,

at least in some cases, a direct reaction to the campaign abuses brought to light in the Watergate investigations.

The unusual actions, announced so far by a relatively small number of lawmakers, also reflect what some of them contend is a need for fuller disclosure to rebuild a shaken public confidence in the political process, not to mention their own prospects for re-election.

"Watergate has cast a shadow over the entire spectrum of political life, and those who can should do whatever they can to redeem the people's confidence in their Government and elective process," said Representative Charles A. Vanik, an Ohio Democrat who announced earlier this month that he would spend no funds other than his own and would accept no contributions in his re-election campaign this fall.

Mr. Vanik, who spent about \$36,000 winning re-election to his 10th term in 1972, said that he planned to have "no signs, no campaign cards, no advertising, no purchase of time or space in the media" this election, and the reaction back in his Cleveland area district has been "very positive," according to an aide.

Representatives Pierre S. du Pont 4th of Delaware and Charles Thone of Nebraska, both Republicans finishing their second terms, and Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr., Republican of Maryland, have been among those announcing that they will accept no campaign contribution larger than \$100. Mr. Mathias said he would accept no contributions in cash.

Representative Jerry Litton, a freshman Democrat from Missouri who is a member of the Agriculture Committee, said that Watergate was a factor in his decision to sell his cattle ranch and to put most of the proceeds into a blind trust.

### Need for Confidence Seen

"While I think it is good for Congressmen to be in business for themselves in order to keep abreast of day-to-day business and people problems, at this point in history I think it is most important that people have confidence in their Government and those who govern," Mr. Litton said.

The Litton Charolais Ranch, near Chillicothe, Mo., was started in the nineteen-fifties on \$20,000 in borrowed money and was sold for \$3.8-million, Mr. Litton said.

In announcing recently that he was placing his personal assets in a blind trust to be administered by the Texas National Bank of Commerce in Houston, Senator Lloyd Bent-

sen, a freshman Democrat from Texas said:

"I feel it is especially important in these troubled times that public officials clearly separate their private, personal interests from the public interest."

### Disclosure of Assets

Mr. Bentsen, who is regarded as a potential contender for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1976, said that the bank's trustees would administer his holdings without informing him about which assets had been bought or sold. Mr. Bentsen, fulfilling a 1970 campaign promise, disclosed in 1971 that he had total assets of \$3.6-million, including securities, real estate and mineral interests, and a net worth of \$2.3-million.

Representative Wayne Owens, a freshman Democrat from Utah, published in the Congressional Record last week on accounting of how he had used his office allowances. Mr. Owens, declaring that he wanted to be "open

and candid" with his constituents, reported among other things that his district offices in Utah received an average of 1,245 telephone calls each week and that he had used \$94,484 of his \$94,791 allowance for staff salaries.

In a separate disclosure in the Congressional Record late last month, Representative E. G. Shuster, a freshman Republican from Pennsylvania, made public a letter from the Congressional physician reporting him to be "in excellent health."

### Income Sources Itemized

Mr. Shuster also itemized his outside sources of income for 1973, the largest of which was \$13,000 from the sale of real estate, and he urged his colleagues "to consider taking similar action."

Among others who published detailed personal financial statements in recent years were Representatives Elwood Hillis, Republican of Indiana, who listed his net worth as \$234,438, and Charles W. Whalen

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Jr., Republican of Ohio, who listed a net worth of \$986,354 and reported that he paid \$18,740 in taxes to the Internal Revenue Service in 1972.

Mr. Whalen said, "The credibility of government now is so low that I feel it is incumbent upon me to make a full disclosure of my income and assets. President Nixon has done this as have other public officials. I do not believe that there should be a double standard, one which applies to the executive branch and another for the legislative branch."

Representative Edward G. Biester Jr., Republican of Pennsylvania, listed personal assets of \$194,631 and liabilities of \$68,582 as of last Oct. 31.

### Tax Returns Published

After Mr. Nixon made public his income tax returns last month, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee, and Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut, a

member of the committee, put their tax returns in the Congressional Record.

Mr. Weicker reported paying \$14,350 in Federal income tax on an adjusted gross income of \$67,959 in 1972. Mr. Ervin, whose detailed tax return took up more than six pages in the Congressional Record, reported paying \$15,483 in Federal taxes on an adjusted gross income of \$63,440.

"I am right proud of my income tax returns that have been prepared for me," Mr. Ervin told the Senate. "They are very voluminous, I tell the Government about every penny of money I receive and every penny of money I disburse, and why I received it and why I disbursed it. And when they get my income tax returns, they weigh so much that I am certain the I.R.S. officials say, 'Well, this ought to bring enough to liquidate the national debt.' But when they examine those returns they find in every case I have overpaid my taxes and they have to give me a refund."