

MAR 22 1974
**Democrats Scored
By Common Cause
On Election Reform**

NYTimes

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP)—Common Cause, a citizens group advocating public financing of elections, accused the Democrats today of stalling electoral reform.

"There's another political scandal in town, but this one belongs to the Democrats," Common Cause said in a full-page advertisement in The Washington Post.

The ad cited the party's annual fund-raising dinner tonight as evidence of the continuing influence of special-interest contributors.

"If you've been hankering to meet the special interests, here's your chance," the ad says. "They'll all be there. Small-time special interests will send a single representative and pay \$500 for the privilege. Big-time special interests will take a table for 10 at \$5,000."

"They have stalled on campaign finance reform until now they have another \$1-million coming in the door, and the Democratic leadership is sitting it out," said Fred Wirthheimer, director of Common Cause's Campaign Finance Monitoring Project.

The ad accused the House Administration Committee chairman, Wayne L. Hays, Democrat of Ohio, of deliberately stalling campaign reform in the House, which has not had a bill reach the floor although the Senate is scheduled for its third floor debate on a reform bill next week.

"The only significant opportunity this Congress will have to prevent future Watergates is campaign finance reform," the ad said.

Then it asked, "Why has the House Democratic leadership permitted Chairman Wayne Hays to stall for 15 months in presenting any campaign finance reform legislation?"

Mr. Hays said earlier this week that he was prepared to bring a bill out soon that would make substantial alterations in the way campaigns are financed. However, Common Cause called the Hays bill "an incumbents protection act—cleverly designed to increase the advantages of those already in office."