

Report Says Mills Got Election Funds From Dairy Co-op

WASHINGTON, March 24 (AP) — Representative Wilbur D. Mills's brief Democratic Presidential campaign got early financial support in corporate contributions from the nation's largest dairy cooperative, according to a report on the dairy group's political dealings.

Federal law prohibits the use of corporation funds for political contributions.

The financial support came in the last months of 1971 and the early weeks of 1972, before Mr. Mills announced that he was a candidate for the Democratic nomination.

Mr. Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said through a spokesman that he had been unaware

corporate money was being used.

The report, obtained from court records, says two top workers in the Mills campaign were paid in corporate funds from the Texas-based Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

The cooperative also paid rent for the Washington apartments of the campaigners, as well as rent for their leased furniture, the report said.

The Associated Press also confirmed independently that cooperative officials drawing corporate salaries took over the organization and financing of a 1971 gathering of farmers in Ames, Iowa, at which Mr. Mills was the main speaker in a lineup that also included top Iowa Republicans.

Last year an official of the Gulf Oil Corporation pleaded guilty to Federal charges of donating \$15,000 in company funds to Mr. Mills's Presidential effort. Mr. Mills later refunded the money from his personal bank account.