

# MILLS CRITICIZED ON CAMPAIGN AID

APR 2 1974

Nader Group Says Donors  
Had a 'Special Interest' in  
Bills Before His Panel

NYTimes

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Special to the New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 1—A research group affiliated with Ralph Nader issued a report today on campaign contributions to Representative Wilbur D. Mills, Democrat of Arkansas, saying that much of the money came from groups that had "some special interest in receiving favorable legislative treatment" from the House Ways and Means Committee, which he heads.

"The patterns established by the data we have collected shows that Mills was heavily supported by big business interests and that, more importantly, that support tends to come from the same kinds of interests—milk, oil, beer and medicine," the report, by Public Citizen's Tax Reform Research Group, said.

The report dealt specifically with contributions to Mr. Mills's campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1972.

A spokesman for Representative Mills said today, in a rebuttal: "there is no clearly discernible link between the contributions they report and actions taken by Mr. Mills."

## Wide Effect Seen

He added: "No individual could ever give to a campaign waged in Mr. Mills's behalf without it being said that he had a special interest in legislation before Mr. Mills's committee. Every individual in the United States has both a direct personal interest and a direct business interest in the legislation that comes before Mr. Mills's committee."

The report by the group affiliated with Mr. Nader, the consumer advocate, dealt with contributions totaling \$231,027 to the cost of the Mills campaign, which was \$274,836.

The largest single area of contributions cited was \$60,100 from several committees associated with large milk cooperatives. The report noted that in January, 1973, Mr. Mills co-sponsored legislation to increase milk-price supports.

Today's report followed one last week, prepared at the request of officers of the Associated Milk Producers Inc., in which Mr. Mills was cited as the recipient of unreported aid in the form of payments for services of two campaign workers.

## Energy Field Donors

The second largest area of contributions cited in today's report was the energy field. Contributions from executives in energy companies were said to total \$33,400.

The report also cited contributions from individuals in textiles, shoemaking, brewing, insurance and banking fields. Most of the amounts reported from individuals were relatively small, the report acknowledged, but it said that they "should be considered relative to the entire amount collected to put it in proper perspective."

The Mills spokesman commented, regarding the dairy-industry support: "We have a substantial dairy-farmer constituency." He declined comment on the other areas, beyond his general statement.