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## Campaign Funds: What And How Labor Gave

To The Editor:

SUN.

In his Op-Ed column (April 7), Franklin B. Smith attempts to equate the contributions of labor unions to nineteen Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee with illegal corporate contributions to CREEP.

The comparison is ridiculous. The labor contributions (only a small part from COPE, the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s political arm) were legally made, properly and timely reported; none was surreptitiously delivered in \$100 bills and all were made long before there was any thought of impeachment hearings.

The contributions were made by a total of 45 different unions—including two whose national leaders oppose impeachment — representing workers in the nineteen Congressional districts. Each contribution was made from separate, voluntary funds established for the purpose of making campaign contributions.

Mr. Smith complains the press has failed to report adequately on this matter. I agree.

On several occasions, The Times has reported that unions contributed \$189,125 to nineteen Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee and \$30,923 of that to the chairman, Peter Rodino. Both facts are true and yet that tells less than half the story.

The rest of the story (and Mr. Smith will not like it) is as follows:

1. Business-conservative-Republican groups (including the American Medical Association) contributed approximately \$310,000 to the seventeen Republican members of the committee.

2. The same groups contributed another \$100,000-plus to nine Republicans who were defeated by Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee.

3. The same groups contributed \$101,170 to the Democratic members of the committee and Mr. Rodino received \$19,400 of that total.

Mr. Smith could have checked out all these facts. As a self-styled "newspaperman, dedicated to the principle of objective and fair reporting without fear or favor" he should have done no less.

Obviously the House Judiciary Committee is going to use evidence, not contributions, as its yardstick when it votes on a bill of impeachment. It is manifestly unfair for Mr. Smith or anyone to suggest the committee members would do otherwise.

GEORGE MEANY

President, A.F.L.-C.I.O.

Washington, April 15, 1974