

## 1972 Campaign

# Big Gifts for Mills Revealed

Washington

Two top executives of Texas millionaire H. Ross Perot's computer firm funneled \$100,000 through dummy committees into the 1972 presidential campaign of Representative Wilbur D. Mills (Dem-Ark.), according to Watergate files.

The firm, Electronic Data Systems, Inc. of Dallas, is a major processor of health insurance claims. Mills, head of the House Ways and Means Committee, is expected to have a guiding influence on any future national health insurance plan.

All the money was given on March 30, 1972, about one week before such undisclosed donations became illegal. On April 7, 1972, a new campaign finance law took effect requiring full disclosure.

The previously undisclosed \$100,000 was given by two executives of the data systems company — President Milledge A. Hart III and a regional vice president, Mervin L. Stauffer, both of Dallas. Neither was

available for comment yesterday.

The two men broke up the gift into installments and passed it out to 17 separate dummy committees set up by the Mills campaign, the records show.

The committees bore such names as "Citizens for a Sound Nation in '72 Committee," "Citizens for National Growth and Development Committee," "Fiscal Sanity Committee," and "Students for Better Government Committee."

Unlike some other candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972, Mills refused to make a voluntary disclosure of his pre-April 7 contributions.

The \$100,000 donation constitutes the largest single, known gift to the Mills campaign.

It was revealed in the open files of the Senate Watergate Committee, which reviewed the bank records of the dummy committees set up by the campaign.

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