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# Key House Member Joins Move For G.A.O. to Pay Vote Subsidy

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(Special to The New York Times)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—Rep-  
resentative Wayne L. Hays,  
chief Congressional critic of the  
Federal Election Commission,  
today joined the bipartisan ef-  
fort to transfer temporarily to  
the General Accounting Office  
the commission's power to au-  
thorize payment of political  
subsidies.

The Ohio Democrat told a  
news conference that he was  
introducing a measure identical  
with that sponsored earlier in  
the week by Senators Edward  
M. Kennedy, Democrat of Mas-  
sachusetts, and Hugh Scott, Re-  
publican of Pennsylvania.

The Election Commission will  
lose its principal functions, in-  
cluding subsidy authorization,  
on March 1 unless Congress re-  
constitutes its membership to  
meet objections raised by the  
Supreme Court last week.  
There now appears to be vir-  
tually no chance Congress will  
meet that deadline.

Under the plan endorsed by  
Mr. Hays, primary candidates  
would continue to receive  
matching funds for which they  
are eligible, and the two major  
parties would receive install-  
ments on the \$2 million Federal  
subsidy for each of their con-  
ventions.

## Hays 'Not Playing Games'

Mr. Hays said that he had  
not decided on what kind of  
broader campaign law reform  
he would back during March  
and April. He has agreed to a  
temporary transfer of the subsi-  
dy power, he added, "to show  
I was not playing games and  
was acting in good faith to get  
something in place by April  
30."

The Ohioan said that he be-  
lieved Robert S. Strauss, Demo-  
cratic National Chairman, was  
in favor of transferring the sub-  
sidy power to G.A.O.

"I get along with Bob

Strauss," he said. "We're on the  
same side. I'm going to get his  
\$2 million for him."

Mr. Hays insisted that his op-  
position to a commission with  
regulatory power was personal,  
and that the House Administra-  
tion Committee, which he  
heads, and the full House might  
well disagree with him.

To reconstitute the commis-  
sion and restore all its powers,  
Congress would have to pass  
a bill giving President Ford au-  
thority to appoint all its six  
members, instead of only two  
as the law now reads.

Fred Wertheimer, vice pres-  
ident of Common Cause, said  
that the Hays bill "takes away  
the one lever that forces the  
House of Representatives to  
deal with the Election Commis-  
sion" by insuring that the sub-  
sidies would be continued after  
the court-imposed expiration  
date for the commission.