EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. DONALD M. FRASER
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 18, 1973

Mr. FRASER. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Post, Senator Walter F. Mondale makes some timely observations on the present campaign financing system. Senator Mondale presents a persuasive case for public financing of election campaigns.

The article by Senator Mondale follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 18, 1973]

PAYING FOR POLITICS
(By Walter F. Mondale)

In 1919, Charles V, King of Spain and all of 19 years old at the time, decided it would be a good time to go up to Rome. Emperors were elected in those days—four princes and three archbishops made the decision—and, not surprisingly, two other kings also decided they would make good emperors. Charles was not to be denied, however, and he settled on a winning strategy. He amassed a campaign fund of $40 million and simply bribed five of the seven electors. Needless to say, he was elected.

In 1972, Richard Nixon was not to be denied, either. He simply amassed a slightly larger campaign fund and, while his campaign tactics were somewhat more subtle than Charles', he was equally successful. No other candidate who employs the tried-and-true methods of trying to buy votes, but some of the methods they employed were only slightly distinguishable. It was unquestionably the most outrageous use of money in the history of American politics.

Perhaps even more outrageous than the way in which that money was used, however, was the way in which it was raised. Consider these examples:

Financier Robert Vesco, in apparent trouble with the Securities and Exchange Commission, personally delivered $200,000—in $100 bills—to the Nixon campaign. Then Attorney General John Mitchell decreed for the SEC to see the head of the SEC just two hours later to discuss his difficulties.

Herbert Kalmbach, one of Mr. Nixon's closest friends and a member of the American Airlines board chairman George Spater at a time when American had a merger plan pending before the Civil Aeronautics Board. Kalmbach is more than a friend, however. He is Robert Vesco's personal counsel but also attorney for United Airlines—America's principal competitor—indicated that a contribution of $100,000 was expected. American responded to the tune of $75,000, most of it in the form of clearly illegal corporate funds.

At least three major oil companies—Ashland, Gulf and Phillips—have each admitted contributing $100,000 of corporate money to the Nixon campaign, again in violation of the law.

The pattern is unmistakable. The Nixon campaign finance system has reared its ugly head, collecting huge campaign contributions from those who had the most to gain—or lose—from specific government actions or policies. There is every indication that the proceeds of these contributions have amounted to a shakedown list of firms most vulnerable to the pressure and subtle intimidation tactics of one sort or another. It has been employed in soliciting large contributions.

Perhaps nothing was done in return for these large contributions. In fact, some large contributors, especially those contributions that never received their money back, have themselves been victimized by the system. But it shouldn't be necessary to prove compromise or corruption, only that it was there in every instance. It should be sufficient that the appearance of improper influence is enough to undermine public confidence in government.

Despite the incredible tales of Mr. Nixon's 1972 fund-raising activities now unfolding, people still believe that it is improper to have a problem unique to Republicans. My own party's fundraising record—while never in Mr. Nixon's league—has not always been as open or as forthcoming as I would like it to have been.

The chief fault lies in the system itself—a system that has systematically contaminated our government virtually up for sale for forcing candidates to rely on excessively large contributions if they hope to compete successfully in a modern campaign. There is most likely no way that it can result from Watergate, in my judgment, is a fundamental change of this system. This can be accomplished only if Congress eliminates the corrosive and corrupting influence of big money in politics and replaces it with a system of public financing of campaigns.

A system reminiscent of President Roosevelt first proposed it in 1907—but it is a far-reaching one. If candidates receive the bulk of their campaign funds from public treasury sources, it follows that once in office they are less likely to be influenced by private interests.

For a variety of reasons, however, some people have still been unable to finance political campaigns with the taxpayer's dollar. It would cost too much, they say, for some reason or another.

What form should it take? How would it work? There are many number of different approaches, but, as a general proposition, there is a growing consensus that if it is to be fair, workable and effective, a public financing system must:

1. Be national in character and scope.
2. Be fair; give everyone an equal chance to participate.
3. Limit the amount candidates may spend in both primary and general elections.
4. Provide public funds for primary as well as general elections.
5. Be used as a base for public financing the already existing dollar check-off system adopted under Sen. Russell Long's (D-La.) leadership but undermined last year by the Congress.

Treat fairly minor, new and third-party candidates.
candidiates without encouraging obviously frivolous candidiates; Provide strict enforcement of campaign financing regulations by an independent agency, preferably a federal elections commission. With the support of Common Cause, Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) and I have intro­duced a bill that we believe will accomplish these goals for presidential elections. It provides tax incentives for a larger number of small contributions, but strictly limits the amount any one person or organization may give; during the pre-nomination period, any private contribution up to $100 would be matched by the government; and for the general election it substantially strengthens the dollar check-off system by providing public funds approximately two-thirds of the amount a candidate is permitted to spend. If implemented in 1976, it would cost approximately $100 million for the presidential election.

Whatever form public financing ultimately takes, there is a growing bipartisan recognition that now is the time to act. Water­gate has provided one of those unique moments in history when it is actually possible to effect fundamental change. According to a recent Gallup Poll, 50 percent of the American people now favor public financing of federal elections. For the first time since it was seriously proposed nearly 70 years ago, the idea of public financing is beginning to achieve a momentum of its own. Whether that momentum can translate into a law will probably be known in the next few months. In the end, it will turn on the determination of the American people to reclaim their government.

CLEMENTE MEDALS NOW AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC

HON. WILLIAM S. MOOREHEAD
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 18, 1973

Mr. MOOREHEAD of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Congress approved the President signed legislation introduced by myself and several of our colleagues, authorizing the Treasury to strike a commemorative gold medal and 500,000 bronze medals. In recognition of Roberto Walker Clemente, the great Pittsburgh Pirate baseball player killed in a New Year's eve mercy flight to earthquake ravaged Nicaragua.

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce is the official sponsor for sales of the Clemente medal. All proceeds from medal sales will go to the Roberto Clemente Memorial Fund which is administered by the Pittsburgh Pirate baseball team. His memory will live on as a sports city complex in Puerto Rico for youngsters. The sports complex for young people was a Clemente dream which the super­star had just begun working on when he died.

The medal was officially presented to the public today in a press conference at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh. The medals, both a 3-inch bronze and a 1½-inch gold-plated bronze pendant with removable loop, are available through the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15219 at a cost of $10.50 each.

I would like to include in the Record at this time information issued by the Pittsburgh chamber on the Clemente medal:


This special, nationally legislated commemorative medal has been struck by the United States Mint in honor of Roberto Walker Clemente for his outstanding contrib­ution to the game of baseball, his immense contributions to civic, charitable and humanitarian endeavors.

Commissioned by the Chamber of Com­merce of Greater Pittsburgh, the gold-plated bronze medal is called "The Great One" and is to aid his humanitarian causes. The Roberto Walker Clemente Commemorative Medal was designed by Virgil Cantini, world-renowned Pittsburgh artist and sculptor. Mr. Cantini loved to watch Clemente play baseball, and had great re­spect for his professionalism. He also admired him deeply for his concern for others, for his generous spirit and for his abiding sense of compassion. Roberto Clemente's records as a baseball player which achievements as a man are designed symbolically into the med­al with sensitivity and clarity by Mr. Cantini.

The lines of Clemente's handsome profile, sculpted into the obverse side of the medal and along with the incised curves of the baseball seam, represent the symmetry between this great man and his profession. On the reverse side of the medal, multiple base­balls crash through a symbolic barrier, re­presenting the explosive impact of the Clemente heart and arm on his fellowman's conscience.

The medal also carries a line of a poem written by Roberto Clemente's daughter, in tribute to the beloved sports figure. The line—"You shared your joy with the less than joyful lot"—serves as a poignant reflection of his achievements. Up to a maximum of only 200,000 commemorative medals are authorized to be minted under the special legislation enacted by the Congress of the United States of America and signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon on May 14, 1973.

The legislation which authorizes the mint­ing of the medal—"The baseball player who could "do it all" and make it seem so effortless—hit, run, field, and throw so powerfully and unerringly that perhaps no other player ever matched his arm. He had become a hero in two worlds. He mains a National League record for the most regularly underwritten by Sears, Mellon Bank, Pittsburgh National Bank, Gimbel's, Kaufmanns. A descriptive folder will accompany each medal. Text will be in both English and Spanish. Costs for this are underwritten, In disbelief—overtaken by sorrow at the abrupt extinction of life of this man, this sports hero. Long revered by both young and old in his native land of Puerto Rico, in the United States and throughout the Americas, the Clemente memorial will be as a man who gave so much of himself to others. Theрадио и телевидение и от одного человека к другому, где бы имелось небольшое количество жителей, которые могли бы приказать в некой обстановке, в какой-то степени, наводить на людей щадение—остановить сознание этой ситуации. Человек, который стал героем..."

The medal is also produced by the Philadelphia Mint and will bear its symbol of "P." Purchases, reserved solely to the Chamber, will be in lots of 2,000 per size or style of medal.

Only the 3" size will be available at a cost of $10.50 each. Public sales price will be $10.50 per medal. Sales price is subject to 6 percent tax where applicable. The 1 1/2" pendant style medal will be sold at $10.00 each, also subject to Pennsylvania sales tax.

The engraving and die-cutting costs are underwritten by Sears, Mellon Bank, Pittsburgh National Bank, Gimbel's, Kaufmanns. A descriptive folder will accompany each medal. Text will be in both English and Spanish. Costs for this are underwritten, In disbelief—overtaken by sorrow at the abrupt extinction of life of this man, this sports hero. Long revered by both young and old in his native land of Puerto Rico, in the United States and throughout the Americas, the Clemente memorial will be as a man who gave so much of himself to others.