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There has been a great deal of talk in recent weeks about mismanagement of campaign finances. Both Republicans and Democrats have been accused of evading and violating the new law that covers raising and spending political money.

The problem is partially one of misunderstanding a very complicated law. The act that Congress passed to regulate campaign spending is one of the most complex laws ever, so there is plenty of room for misunderstanding and misınterpretation in this first election covered by that law.

But I'm afraid that both parties are also guilty of looking for ways to escape the law rather than concentrating on complying with



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it. There seems to be a tradition in American politics of seeking to around the legal requirements for campaign spending. And it seems, the more complex the law gets, the more loopholes there are to be found.

That's why I feel that the best campaign spending law would also be the simplest. The requirement should be that every candidate list where each dollar came from and then also list how each dollar was spent. No complicated formulas and the like would be needed, just a simple, straight-forward statement of facts and figures. My campaign funding has always been calculated that way, and I have never found it to be any particular burden.

But my preference does not change the present situation where we are faced with the complex political financing law Congress passed several months ago. And because it is the law. every candidate, every campaign committee and every political party should be making every effort to comply with it.

Therefore, it's disturbing to see these reports of candidates and committees who are fudging their figures or looking for methods to raise money and spend money that are not covered by the law. I'm not asking for anyone to do more than the law

requires, but the letter of the law should be met.

When you have a case where money from some secret fund was apparently used to bug the headquarters of the opposition party, or when you have another case where thousands of dollars were evidently collected from one individual without being reported as required by law, the whole American political system suffers. The first case is an accusation that the Democrats have pinned on the Republicans and the second is one the Republicans have charged to the Democrats, so the blame is bipartisan

What needs to be done is make the law felt by prosecuting anyone responsible for evasion or violation of it. No matter which political party and no matter how high up the persons responsible are in campaign organizations, they must be held accountable for their actions. And accountability this year is very much a matter of handling campaign finances the right way.



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