

## Haldeman Maintained Fund For Cash Gifts

WASHINGTON (AP) — While he was President Nixon's chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman maintained a fund from which he dispensed cash gifts to White House employees, a former aide says in newly surfaced testimony.

Lawrence M. Higby, now in the Office of Management and Budget, said the money was in a 2-inch-thick stack of \$100-and-\$20-bills that was kept in Haldeman's safe.

The testimony, given in a Watergate civil suit deposition last December, was unsealed Friday by U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey.

Higby said he understood the money was given to Haldeman late in 1968 after Richard Nixon's election as president "to be passed on to those members of the staff who needed funds" for moving expenses.

That would make it a different money cache from the \$350,000 that Haldeman obtained on April 6, 1972 from fundraiser Herbert W. Kalmbach who had the money left over from the 1968 campaign. Some of that fund eventually went to the Watergate break-in defendants.

Higby said he personally disbursed \$2,500 of the money to two men when they left the White House. He said they were Bill Gavin and Harry Dent, one receiving \$1,000; the other, \$1,500.

"Other people received money from that money that Mr. Haldeman had," Higby said. "To my knowledge other people did receive money from Mr. Haldeman, as I understood it,

before we ever were in the White House."

Higby said he did not know how much money was involved or who gave it to Haldeman.

Judge Richey unsealed the deposition, taken last Dec. 11 and 17, after a request from the House Judiciary Committee that asked judges in Watergate-related cases to supply it with secret testimony for its impeachment inquiry.

Higby said Gavin was given money when he left the White House staff in 1970 and Dent when he left sometime around the 1972 election.