

CREEP's Heirs Settle Water

By Walter Pincus

Washington Post Staff Writer

R. Spencer Oliver, the Democratic National Committee official whose telephone was tapped by the Watergate burglars in 1972, has been paid \$215,000 as a settlement of his four-year-old lawsuit against the Nixon re-election committees.

The payment was made July 21, but was sealed by the court at the request of lawyers for a trust that now manages the \$1.3 million fund left over from the 1972 Nixon campaign.

According to one source, the trust pressed for a settlement because the suit would have come to trial during the fall election. The trust is settling the financial affairs of Nixon's Committee for the Re-election of the President and the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, both of which were named in Oliver's suit.

Richard Galiher Sr., lawyer for the Nixon trust, said yesterday his side "didn't want publicity," but refused to elaborate on why the settlement was sealed by the court.

The settlement was listed among expenditures made by the Nixon trust in a report filed last month with the Federal Election Commission.

With the Oliver suit out of the way, the only major outside claim against the Nixon campaign fund, trust lawyers believe, is from the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS has conducted a full audit of the more than \$50 million raised in 1971 and 1972 by the Nixon re-election committee, and trust lawyers have been negotiating a settlement on taxes allegedly owed for income derived from investments.

Neither the IRS nor trust officials would talk about details of the tax questions raised by the audit.

Galiher, the trust's lawyer, said he expected the IRS negotiations to be completed the first week in January. Galiher would not speculate on how much Nixon campaign money would be taken by taxes.

Once the IRS is paid, Galiher and Nixon fund trustee Charles E. Potter expect to begin paying legal bills run up by a number of former Nixon committee campaign aides.

Under terms of the trust, lawyers' bills run up by former Nixon aides found innocent of crimes can be paid from the leftover campaign funds.

With the IRS matter outstanding, Potter said yesterday, "we can't do anything till it is resolved."

The former Michigan Republican Senator, however, has been paid a \$3,000 monthly fee from the trust's funds for the past six months.

"We still have lawsuits," Potter said

gate Lawsuit for \$215,000

in describing his activities for the trust, "and I spend time with people, like your conversation today." Also, the trust's files are maintained in his Washington office, he said— another service he performs for his fee.

Among those who have applied to the trust for payment are:

- John Mitchell, seeking funds for the lawyers in his 1973-4 trial in New York, where he and former Nixon finance chairman Maurice Stans were found not guilty on charges of perjury.

The former attorney general's lawyers have submitted bills totaling \$467,390.86 in fees and expenses. To date, \$200,000 has been paid.

- Stans, who has put in for \$127,000 in fees and expenses.

- Kenneth Parkinson, who two months after his acquittal in the Watergate cover-up trial submitted a bill totaling \$73,593 to the trust. Gali-

her said yesterday is it "likely" Parkinson will be paid once the IRS matter is settled.

- Thomas Evans, who was a chairman of the Nixon re-election committee, has filed for \$27,815.92 in legal fees stemming from inquiries directed at him from September 1973 through November, 1974. Evans was elected this year to the House of Representatives as a Republican from Delaware.

Potter said any funds remaining after these claims and a handful of others are paid would be turned over to the Republican National Committee, under terms of the trust agreement.

The Oliver payment was the first major settlement since February, 1974, when \$775,000 was paid to the Democratic National Committee.

That money ended a suit which had been filed four days after the arrest of five men in the Watergate offices on June 17, 1972.



P. SPENCER OLIVER
... phone was tapped by burglars