

Nixon Donor Gets Charter For Banking

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By Bob Woodward

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Dwayne Andreas, a Minnesota investor whose \$25,000 campaign contribution to President Nixon has been traced to the Watergate bugging incident, received a much-coveted federal banking charter this week.

Andreas, who was also the largest contributor to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey's 1972 presidential bid, gave the contribution to the Republican campaign believing that it would never be reportedly publicly, according to Kenneth H. Dahlberg, Midwest Republican finance chief.

However, in the midst of the furor surrounding the Watergate incident and the efforts to trace the source of funds that are involved, Andreas' \$25,000 contribution became public Thursday.

Andreas received a federal bank charter for the Ridgedale National Bank in the Minnetonka shopping center near Minneapolis, according to Marvin L. Rye, commissioner of banks of the state.

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"He got it a little quicker than average," Rye said. "We're still considering whether to give him the state charter. I've heard a lot of speculation why he got the federal charter."

Rye declined to elaborate, but said that he has heard of a federal banking charter being granted so quickly only one other time.

A federal banking charter is one of two authorities required by a bank to do business. The second is a state charter. Fewer than 100 federal charters are granted each year. They are vigorously sought after in the banking business.

Andreas has not been available for comment since the disclosure of the contribution to the Nixon campaign.

The federal charter was granted this week by William B. Camp, comptroller of currency in the U.S. Treasury Department. Camp and other officials in his office could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Andreas is chairman of the First Oceanic Corp. in the Minneapolis area. He gave \$75,000 to the Humphrey campaign this year.

Andreas has not concealed his Republican ties, however. This week, he attended a \$500-a-ticket GOP fund-raising effort in Miami during the party's convention.

Dahlberg, the Nixon finance chief for the Midwest, said Andreas made the following comment when turning over the \$25,000 cash contribution in April:

"I'm giving to Humphrey

and Nixon the two most qualified men to be President."

Dahlberg said the \$25,000 was given to him by Andreas on April 5—two days before the new campaign finance disclosure act went into effect.

That would mean that it would not have to be reported.

Dahlberg has said that he did not actually pick up the money from a hotel cash deposit box until April 9. A day later, Dahlberg said, he converted the money to a \$25,000 cashier's check.

On April 11 the check was handed to Maurice H. Stans, chief national fund raiser for the President, at a meeting in Washington, according to Dahlberg.

For his part, Stans has told federal investigators that he

gave the check to the Nixon committee treasurer, who in turn gave it to G. Gordon Liddy.

Liddy was fired from his position as Nixon committee finance counsel June 28 after he refused to answer FBI questions about the Watergate incident.

Records of the FBI investigation show that the \$25,000 check was deposited in the Miami bank account of Bernard L. Barker, one of the Watergate suspects, April 20.

It has not been publicly revealed how the check got to Barker's account. However, the disclosure that it was deposited there prompted the General Accounting Office to begin a full audit of the Nixon campaign finances.