

Nixon's policy on Cuba may soften after election

N.D. 5-1 9/14/72

WASHINGTON — We reported in an earlier column that President Nixon has rejected the idea of including Cuba in his campaign to reduce East West tensions. This is still the word going out from the White House.

But after the presidential election, we have now learned, he may modify his hard line toward Havana.

The detailed planning has already started for ending the boycott against Cuba and resuming trade relations. The plans won't be implemented until the Organization of American States votes to lift the boycott. But if the United States should reverse its attitude toward Cuba, this could be expected to have enormous influence upon the OAS.

Concessions from Moscow

The President is less interested in concessions from Havana than Moscow. During the Moscow summit bargaining, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko offered mischievously: "We'll throw Cuba in for good measure."

The wisecrack masked genuine Soviet misgivings over Cuba. It's costing the Kremlin more than \$2 million a day to keep Fidel Castro in power in Havana. They would like to reduce the burden, which a normalization of Cuban trade would help to accomplish.

President Nixon is now willing to restore commercial ties with Cuba in exchange, say, for a softening of the Soviet line in Vietnam.

PATMAN'S PROBE

House Banking Chairman Wright Patman, D-Tex., has taken steps to block a national bank charter for Dwayne Andreas, the soybean tycoon whose \$25,000 cash contribution to the Republicans has been traced to the ringleader of the Mission Impossible crew caught breaking into Democratic headquarters.

Patman has written to Federal Reserve Chairman Arthur Burns, questioning the authority of the comptroller of the currency to issue the charter. The owlish Patman has also encouraged a rival group to press for a state charter.

Meanwhile, he has ordered his staff to investigate whether the \$25,000 was a politi-

cal payoff in exchange for the bank charter.

The cash was picked up in a safety-deposit box of a Bal Harbour, Fla., hotel by GOP fund raiser Kenneth Dahlberg on April 9. This was two days after the cut-off date for reporting campaign contributions; thereafter, all money had to be accounted for under a new law.

\$25,000 not reported

Dahlberg, however, didn't report the \$25,000, arguing that it had been left for him

Jack Anderson

in the safety-deposit box before the deadline. The money was converted into a cashier's check, which was turned over on April 11 to President Nixon's chief fund raiser, Maurice Stans.

The same check was subsequently cashed by Bernard Barker, who recruited the second-story squad that was arrested at gunpoint inside Democratic national headquarters during the early morning hours of June 17.

We have obtained a photostat of the check, which shows it went through the trust account of Barker Associates, Inc., at the Republic National Bank, Miami, Fla. A notation on the front of the check states: "FBI has original copy. 7-7-72."

Not long after Andreas paid up the \$25,000, he applied for a national charter to establish the Ridgedale National Bank in a shopping center in suburban Minneapolis. The bank holding company is a subsidiary of his soybean oil outfit, the American Tubulars Midland Corp.

The charter was approved in 30 days, which insiders say was unusually fast. In his letter to the Federal Reserve Board, Patman questioned whether the comptroller had the authority to issue a national bank charter to a holding company.

NIXON AND YOUTH

President Nixon was so charmed by the youth turnout for him at the Miami convention that he has called for similar youth shows in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City.