

'Web' Seen In Andreas' 1968 Gift

1/23/74
By Austin C. Wehrwein
Special to The Washington Post

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 23—An assistant Watergate special prosecutor charged in court today that Dwayne O. Andreas' \$100,000 contribution to the 1968 Humphrey presidential campaign was part of a "connected web" that involved both domestic and foreign banks.

Roger Witten, the prosecution lawyer, did not elaborate on the foreign bank connection during the court session and declined further comment to a reporter afterwards.

But Whitten told U.S. District Court Judge Earl Larson that Andreas had a "single integrated scheme" to "pump corporate money" from his First Interoceanic Corp. into his personal checking account to reimburse that account. He said the political contributions had caused a \$50,000 overdraft in the checking account held in the National City Bank of Minneapolis, which Andreas controls.

Andreas was absent as the case began in court today, his presence not being required during the proceedings, which were confined to arguments on motions to dismiss. The motions are based on the grounds

that the special prosecutor lacks jurisdiction over allegations involving 1968 campaign financing and that the five-year statute of limitations bars the prosecution. Larson took the motions under advisement and will set a trial date. Edward Bennett Williams, one of Andreas' lawyers argued that charges were filed a day too late.

Andreas, who has made large contributions to various campaigns of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey and to the 1972 Nixon campaign, earlier pleaded not guilty to "consenting" to corporation contributions the government traces to First Interoceanic, of which he was board chairman.

The special prosecutor's office filed an information of eight misdemeanor counts against Andreas and First Interoceanic on Oct. 19, 1973. The charges hinge on four checks dated Oct. 14, 1968, drawn on the National City Bank of Minneapolis, which Andreas founded and of which he is a director and chairman of the executive committee.

Williams contended today that the contribution transaction was completely "consummated" by Oct. 18, 1968, and thus barred by the five-year statute of limitations. He also argued that it could be said to have been consummated as early as Oct. 14, 1968.

Williams said the subsequent \$50,000 reimbursement from the corporation to the Andreas checking account was simply a bonafide loan by a corporation to one of its directors.