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## Bankers' Gifts And Public Funds

THE blue-ribbon bankers of America have poured more than \$1.2 million into the Nixon-Agnew campaign at the same time that their banks hold billions in federal interest-free deposits.

The Treasury greets the remarkable coincidence between GOP contributions and federal windfalls with detailed assurances about the impossibility of political influence.

The bankers, for their part, pooh-pooh the mere idea that their contributions have figured in the gold mine of federal deposits on which they pay no interest. These federal funds, of course, belong to the taxpayers who, individually, often borrow their own money back at high rates.

In one category alone, the tax and loan accounts, the private banks have the use of over \$5 billion in interest-free public money. Because fairly recent figures on tax and loan accounts are accessible, we have used them to show the relationship between federal deposits and GOP contributions.

At the Rockefeller bank, Chase Manhattan, the tax and loan balance recently was \$177 million, all owned by the taxpayers but drawing interest for the bank. David Rockefeller, the bank's head, has given at least \$45,000 to the GOP cause. Top aides like Ralph Lazarus and William Hewitt gave \$2,500 and \$4,000, respectively.

At New York's huge Chemical Bank, the tax and loan balance was \$102 million in federal funds. Meanwhile, bank bigwigs A.R. Marusi, Harold Helm and John Burleigh were coughing up \$13,000 to the Grand Old Pachyderm.

At the Mellon National Bank of Pittsburgh, the interest-free tax and loan account stood at \$65 million. A director, Richard Mellon Scaife, gave the Nixon campaign \$990,000 while his bank colleagues Gwilyn Price and

John Mayer gave \$6,000, for a total of nearly a million.

Miami banker Wiley Reynolds, whose two banks had almost \$12 million in the interest-free tax and loan deposits, gave at least \$5,000 to sweeten the Nixon-Agnew kitty. Lloyd Miller, of Cincinnati's Central Trust Co., with \$9 million in the federal bonanza, ponied up \$14,500.

Other heavy contributors from banks with huge federal interest-free deposits include Douglas Stuart, First National Bank, Chicago; Joseph

Roebing, New Jersey National Bank, Trenton; William Messinger, First Wisconsin National, Milwaukee; Asa Call, United California Bank, Los Angeles, and Lawrence Reed, Bank of the Southwest, Houston.

Footnote: In fairness to Mr. Nixon, many of these same bankers gave financial support to beat Barry Goldwater. Thus, the bankers mine both sides of the political street.

## Young Radicals

PUBLISHED reports claim that the young radicals who slashed tires, threw rocks and terrorized Republicans at the national convention were really on the GOP payroll. The idea, according to these reports, was to create sympathy for the Republicans and to give the impression George McGovern was supported by extremists.

The Washington Post has quoted Byron Beam, a young California attorney, as saying he was asked by a GOP undercover operative to recruit radical, long-haired youths to demonstrate against the Republicans in Miami Beach.

But the plot apparently was never carried out. We have spent several days checking out the story. We have talked to leaders who organized the demonstrations. We have had access, through our own sources, to government files. Our conclusion: There is absolutely no evidence that the Republicans secretly financed the anti-Republican violence in Miami Beach.

The chief agitator, according to one columnist, was Thomas Forcade, who handed out funds to the radical Zippies. Government files show that Forcade's real name is Gary Kenneth Goodson. He was born 27 years ago in Hayward, Calif., served a stint in the Army and was arrested on Aug. 19, 1965, in Phoenix on charges involving LSD. He was not convicted.

Forcade is known in the radical netherworld as a weird character with a black sense of humor, who would undoubtedly have been tempted by the prospect of taking Republican money to harass Republicans. Those who were close to him, however, insist it did not happen. There is no contradictory evidence in government files.

It's true that the Zippies had ample funds in Miami Beach, but it was money they raised themselves.