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Bennett, Robert Foster; deposed 11/10/71, 10:10 a.m. by Wm. A. Dobrovir, 2005 L, NW

AK Mullen since 1/71. Had been Dept. Transportation since 3/69. Prior to that at J.C. Penney, 1156 15 NW (not a store address) since 7/64. 39 yrs old. Father's campaign filed director 1962.

"Neutral" while "I represented" Penny. Work in 1968 campaign "I did either on my own time or on a leave of absence basis". Because had to deal with elected officials both parties. I.e., lobbyist? Managed father's campaign 1968, leave absence.

"I am not active in Republican fund raising activities. I have not solicited funds on behalf of the President or any other Republican, except, perhaps, my father... "

"First activity... in the establishment of committees for the deposit or receipt of campaign funds"? "...it would be springtime, 1971."

Came about when "I engaged in conversation with a number of my Republican friends as to the kinds of things I might now do that would not take a great deal of my time...but not duplicative of the kind of thing that a number of people would want me to be doing" so "I made the decision that the one thing I could do, drawing upon my background of political campaigns, would be to establish committees that

7 could make it possible for these large contributors to make contributions to the President, and avoid the gift tax." So, ~~xxxx~~ "I contacted an attorney to make sure the [sic] charter would be drafted in ~~xxxx~~ a way which would comply with all existing laws." Then, "I proceeded to recruit a number of my friends...asking them to serve as chairmen of such committees, and asking them to ask their friends...each one was on a different committee of a different name, submitted the charters to Mr. Ritchie, at the Union Trust Bank, with the request that he obtain treasurers, because we required a separate treasurer for each committee..."

*Hunt's
Front
Kahala*

8 Ask with whom he discussed, said couldn't remember all, named Hugh Sloan, Lee Nunn. Not asked to name others or if any in WH!

9 "It was my own idea."

10 EXHIBIT A "This is the record of the committees with chairmen and treasurer" as of "the summer of 1971...and the list contains the names of 100 committees..."

11 Q. "The first 50 of these committees seem to show treasurers in the Union Trust Building." Ritchie "recruited" them. With whom did he discuss "from number 51!?" "My memory is dim on that." But "I would assume that it would be Hugh Sloan." (someone marked with check mark in margin.)

12 Asked if he spoke "to anybody at the National Savings and Trust Company about these committees - the second group of committees" said, "I had one conversation with a gentleman whose name I cannot recall."

(professes all substantive dealings with Sloan but no real questioning.)

15 Bissolution these committees "roughly, again, February or March of 1972. Maybe January or February. Around in there."

Charles Botsford "is one of the men to whom I turned to help me get the chain running out..."

16-7 W. Carter Bowles may have been a man whose "name appeared as chairman, which in fact he was not" "This happened in maybe two or three cases."

17-8 The accounts "were opened towards the end of August" (1971)

Bennett handled the delivery of funds to Ritchie "On one occasion," These funds "were given to me by Hugh Sloan." Check, about 50, from individuals.

19 "The were made out from political actions committees, the exact nature of which I was not familiar with. They were for \$2,500 apiece, made out to the various committees."

20 Never discussed sources.

Tom Evans. "I met with Tom Evans at one time when he was here, to ask for his help in getting the legal background for the committees..." 30 "He is a lawyer in the Mudge, Rice law firm "NY"

20-1 Lawyer Marion Harrison. Knows who he is, met socially only.

21 Hunt chairman of a committee: "He was recruited while he was a consultant in the White House."

ee 37-8 But "After the contributions were made [he] asked that he resign" because "it might be embarrassing" to WH. BUT

22 "...the records of the Union Trust Company shows [sic] that no account was even opened in ~~the name~~ for the committees of which Mr. Hunt was chairman. There is no signature card with his name on record at the Union Trust Company." And, "I did not deliberately remove it."

Marion Harrison with background information

23 About the end of August, 1971.

24 Checks dated 7/9/71 but "they were deposited between August 10th and August 20th."

26 Refers to Kalmbach as "Herb."

27 Met him "In the coffeeshop at the Statler Hilton Hotel."

31 Tom Rose appears to have provided "the draft charter."

32 Dean Pohlenz "was Senator Roman Hruska's administrative ~~assassinat~~ assistant"
"Burkett Van Kirk - I do not know."

34 "I have a number of friends on the White House staff~~x~~ whom I knew prior to going there, with whom I have maintained social contacts. Do you want a list of the people that I know on the White House staff?"

35 Instead of asking "yes," Dobrovir limits to those with whom he "might have had contact with during this period"

35 Thus limited: "include Clark ~~Max~~ McGregor, Tom Korologos, Desmond Barker, Charles Colson, Henry Cashen, John Dean, George Bell, Dick Cook, Gene Townens, Bill Magruder, and I have met others. Not asked who "others" are.

38-40 Hunt's last Mullen employment 6/20/72. "...those days that he put in time at the White House he was not paid at the Mullen Company. Most of his work for the White House was done on weekends, so that he drew, in effect, a full salary from us during that period... We put him on a per diem basis and paid him for the days he worked for us." This seems to say that before going to the WH Hunt got a regular ~~star~~ salary. Hunt and Bennett both Colson friends.

40 Met Chotiner during 1970 Congressional campaigns.

41 Had "dealings" with Colson, Cashen and Bell "in connection with" his Mullen business.

43-4 "At some point before the checks arrived, I did hear the phrase 'the milk people.'" Sloan said, "We will be using your committees, the milk people."

Deposition ended 11:15, with neither DJ lawyers, acting for defendants Earl H. Butz et al, not John Y. Merrell, 6845 Elm St., McLeah, Va. Bennett's attorney, seeing fit to ask any questions to clarify anything.