

GOP Agrees To List Some Gifts, Names

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President Nixon's political fund raisers agreed yesterday to disclose some of the sources and amounts of anonymous donations to the re-election campaign.

In return for the partial disclosure, the citizen lobby Common Cause consented to delay until after Tuesday's election a trial of its suit to compel release of secret data on donations estimated at well over \$10 million.

Each side claimed victory in the agreement and vowed to press for ultimate vindication in the dispute over millions of dollars in still-secret contributions.

Common Cause chairman John W. Gardner said the GOP finance committee officials "in effect have admitted they had been wrong" in denying a legal obligation to disclose contributions made before the new federal election law took effect on April 7.

But Maurice Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, said the agreement was made solely to "eliminate one more political harassment" and get on with raising funds. He said Gardner agreed out of fear of losing Common Cause's tax exemption as a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization.

The disclosure agreement covers contributions made before March 10 and leaves for trial the question whether donations made between March 10 and April 7 also must be divulged.

The finance committee promised to release a list of contributions of \$1,000 or more by 9 p.m. tonight. By noon Sunday, it is to list gifts between \$100 and \$1,000.

During a brief appearance in U.S. District Court here, Kenneth Wells Parkinson, attorney for the finance committee, explained that March 10 was chosen because that was

the last date for filing any reports under the Corrupt Practices Act, the 1925 law that Common Cause is invoking in the suit despite its repeal by the new federal election law.

Common Cause contends that the committee's failure to file a March 10 report justifies a court order requiring disclosure of gifts accepted during the following four weeks.

The interim settlement carried advantages and disadvantages for both sides. Common Cause estimated that the trial, which was to have begun on Tuesday, might have lasted a week or more, so that even a favorable verdict could come only after election day. Appeals to higher courts might have further delayed final action.

As for the GOP committee, Common Cause attorney Mitchell Rogovin said the committee did not relish the prospect of having chairman Stans on the witness stand for several days during the final week of the campaign.

Stans and other witnesses have given extensive pretrial statements, the transcripts of which remain sealed along with voluminous campaign finance records.

Gardner said yesterday that President Nixon has "a moral

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obligation to voluntarily reveal all of the information."

In reply, Stans said the committee "could have derived political advantage from revealing the names of all contributors and ending this phony secrecy issue once and for all" but continued to refuse "to break faith with the rights of our contributors," who were promise anonymity.

Stans said the majority of the contributors affected by the interim agreement had been polled "and I am grateful to them for their willingness to waive their right of privacy in order to get this diversionary lawsuit out of the way."

Under the agreement, the finance committee promised not to claim later that the dispute had become moot by the pass-

ing of election day and to drop its charge that the suit was an unauthorized political venture outside the charter of Common Cause. This was the claim that Stans said aroused Gardner's concern.

The finance committee also agreed to deliver to the court, for safekeeping and access only by lawyers in the case, several volumes of campaign records sought by Common Cause.

"We feel that this should eliminate considerable speculation about the whereabouts of these records," Parkinson told District Judge Joseph C. Waddy.

At a previously undisclosed court session last Friday, Judge Waddy said it came "as a shock" to him to learn that the records, which were shipped to New York and back earlier this year, had not been produced in response to a Common Cause subpoena. Rogovin charged, and Parkinson denied, that both Common Cause and Judge Waddy "have been played with in this matter."