

Nixon Unit Got Secret Donation

By Morton Mintz

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon's re-election drive got a secret \$60,000 contribution from the political fund-raising of a major defense contractor that never registered the unit under the old election-financing law, it was revealed yesterday.

The contribution was made by CITIGO (Citizens for Good Government) of Ling-Temco-Voight in Dallas. The disclosure was made by the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President as a result of a court action brought by Common Cause, the citizens' lobby.

THE CITIGO contribution appeared on the second list of Nixon contributors whose donations were made between Jan. 1, 1971, and March 10, 1972, the final date for filing financial reports under the old Corrupt Practices Act of 1925.

The second list also named 1,291 persons who gave an additional \$224,554 in sums of \$100 to \$1,000, and provided an aggregate figure of \$206,346 for donors of less than \$100. The grand total, including the CITIGO contribution, was \$490,000.

Common Cause said an analysis of the list also turned up

to 157 certified public accountants in the firm of Ernst & Ernst who gave \$250 each and one who gave \$125, for a total of \$39,375.

One of the \$250 donors, who were found in 54 cities, was Julian O. Kay, treasurer of Victory '72 Dinner Committee. That unit has raised \$4.9 million for Mr. Nixon since April 7, the effective date of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

In the first list, released by the finance committee last Thursday night, the GOP unit reported \$5 million in hitherto undisclosed pre-April 7 contributions of \$1,000 to \$1 million from 283 donors.

Common Cause was unable to compel the Nixon unit to identify the sources of an estimated \$10 million to \$15 million more that was contributed in the 27 days between the final filing date under the old law and the inception date of the new one.

Common Cause contends—and the finance committee denies—that filing of all of the names with the Clerk of the House had been required all along by the Corrupt Practices Act. The issue will be litigated after Tuesday's election.

The 1925 law required all committees seeking to influence elections in two or more states to register with the House Clerk and to file periodic financial reports. The fund-raising units of a few corporations, including General Foods and Lone Star Cement complied.

But dozens or possibly hundreds of political funding committees at corporations, banks and other organizations never registered or filed reports.

But the law never was enforced for non-filing by committees. No House Clerk ever complained to the Justice Department, and the department never acted on its own.