

# Auditors Donated To Nixon

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By Martin Weil

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As many as 158 employees of the accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst gave a total of \$39,375 to President Nixon's re-election effort before March 10, according to study of new campaign finance data made public yesterday by Common Cause.

Ernst & Ernst, a firm with offices in many cities, made the recent, somewhat controversial audit of Washington police statistics that affirmed Republican claims that crime has dropped here in the last three years.

It has previously been disclosed that top officers and employees of the firm donated \$16,900 to the President's campaign between early April and mid-October, and that they have served as key organizers of the re-election effort.

The findings announced by Common Cause would bring the total amount contributed by Ernst executives and employees to at least \$56,275.

Common Cause said it based its findings on a study of a list of persons who contributed

from \$100 to \$999 to "Nixon Campaign Committees" from Jan. 1, 1971, through March 9, 1972.

Common Cause, which describes itself as a citizens lobby, said it obtained the list under Thursday's settlement of a suit it filed to force the release of names of persons contributing before the new campaign financing disclosure law took effect April 7.

Fred Wertheimer, director of campaign monitoring projects for Common Cause, said his group identified at least 157 certified public accountants working for Ernst & Ernst in 54 cities who gave \$250 each, and one who gave \$125, to make up the \$39,375 total.

He said six CPAs in the Washington office gave \$250 each, and listed them as J. William Hemphill, Thomas J. Linahan, J. Robert MacNaughton, R. D. Neary, R. J. Rappaport and Julian Kay, head of the office.

Only one of the six could be reached for comment last night. In a telephone interview from Georgia, MacNaughton, a partner in the firm, confirmed the \$250 figure, and said, "I contribute to a good many things."

Mrs. Neary confirmed that her husband had also given \$250 and said she understood that all Ernst partners were asked to contribute to the candidate of their choice.