

Group Seeks 'Political Documents'

Common Cause Subpoenas Nixon For '72 Contributor Lists, Records

11/18/74 FOX
By Arnold B. Sawislak

United Press International

Common Cause subpoenaed President Nixon yesterday to turn over lists and records of major campaign contributions in 1972, including many of 7,500 persons who got "thank you" gifts after his landslide victory.

Common Cause lawyer Kenneth Guido said subpoenas were issued because the organization had been told by the finance committee of the Nixon re-election organization that a number of records it requested were in White House custody and could not be produced.

The citizen action organization won a lengthy civil law suit against the Fiance Committee to Re-elect the President last fall to compel disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures in the period before strict reporting requirements of the 1971 federal action law took effect.

U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Waddy ordered the Nixon fund-raisers to make public previously secret lists of contributions and expenses before April 7, 1972, and gave Common Cause a "reasonable time" to audit the records.

The subpoenas, notices of which were filed yesterday, named Mr. Nixon; Rose Mary Woods, his administrative assistant; Charles W. Colson, a former White House aide; seven other individuals involved with the fund-raising committee or in auditing its records, and the American Security and Trust Co. bank of Washington. Common Cause is seeking bank records of accounts held by the re-election committee or officials between Jan. 1, 1971, and April 6, 1972.

The summons calls on Mr. Nixon or a designated representative to appear Jan. 31 at the office of Common Cause's general counsel, Mitchell Rogovin, with a long list of documents, including:

- Mailing labels or lists from which 12,500 names were selected for sending medallions in the form of glass stars as mementos of appreciation

after the 1972 election. An attorney for the fiance committee was quoted as saying 7,500 of the "thank you" gifts went to contributors of \$5,000 or more.

- Political memoranda and other documents from the White House files of former presidential aides Gordon Strachan and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman.

- Letters from Mr. Nixon and Miss Woods acknowledging or thanking campaign contributors.

- Documents involving political fund bank accounts and records held by Herbert Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's former personal attorney; C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, his longtime personal friend; F. M. Raine Jr., Haldeman's brother-in-law, and Thomas W. Evans, a former law partner of Mr. Nixon.

The subpoenas also call for specific documents from the files of Haldeman, Miss Woods, Strachan, and others in the White House or in Nixon campaign organizations.

The subpoenas, which may be served in person or by mail, summon Colson to appear Feb. 20; Miss Woods, Feb. 26; Raine, March 14; Evans, March 1, and several other individuals in the period between late January and mid-March.

If the President wants to resist the subpoenas, his lawyers could go to Waddy and seek to have them quashed.

Common Cause lawyer Guido said its subpoena to Mr. Nixon differed from similar requests for White House documents by the Senate Watergate committee and the Watergate special prosecutor.

"This is not a suit between branches of government, and we are seeking political documents, not governmental documents," Guido said. "Therefore there can be no claim of executive privilege."

A Common Cause spokesman said the decision to name Mr. Nixon personally in a subpoena was based in part on the President's statement that he held personal control over the Watergate-related documents and tapes at the White House.

In denying a Senate request for similar materials last year, Mr. Nixon said: "... the tapes, which have been under my sole personal control, will remain so."