

Mellon Fortune Heir Gave Nixon \$990,000

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By Stephen Isaacs
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NEW YORK—A big hunk—nearly a million dollars—of the money that went into President Nixon's re-election drive before April 7 came from Pittsburgh millionaire Richard Mellon Scaife.

Scaife acknowledged Tuesday night that over a period of time prior to the April 7 reporting date, he made out 330 separate checks in behalf of Mr. Nixon's re-election, each for \$3,000.

His total contribution for Mr. Nixon's re-election drive so far is \$990,000.

He said that, "I've also made other contributions to House and Senate races around the country . . . they total probably another \$60,000 to \$70,000."

Scaife is a principal heir to the vast Mellon fortune of Pittsburgh and, as one friend described that fortune, it "makes the Rockefellers look poor."

Scaife said he also contributed heavily to Mr. Nixon's campaign in 1968, to Barry Goldwater's campaign in 1964, and "to congressional and senatorial campaigns in '66 and '70 and so on."

Scaife heatedly denied a report that his contribution was aimed at getting him named ambassador to Great Britain. "There's not one shred of truth to that," he said. "I have sought no favor and I seek none, and I received none."

He said he had not discussed any ambassadorship with "anybody in the Committee to Re-elect the President, nobody on the White House staff, nobody connected with the federal government in Washington, not even with a fund raiser.

"No one have I discussed that with, and I have no reason even to entertain that in my own mind. People keep asking me, 'Don't you want to be ambassador here or there?' and the answer is 'No, I do



RICHARD M. SCAIFE
... almost a million

not' . . . There is no quid pro quo."

Scaife, 40, makes his living from the Mellon fortune, which was amassed two generations ago by Andrew Mellon, steel baron and banker, and who, among other things, provided the money for the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Scaife's inheritance is through his mother's (Sarah Mellon) side of the family. He publishes a chain of Pittsburgh suburban weekly newspapers.

He is a director of such companies and foundations as T. Mellon and Sons, the Mellon National Bank and the Carnegie Institute, and is a trustee of a foundation bearing his mother's name.

Scaife and his wife, Frances, live in Pittsburgh, and are active in the art and social world in that city. He is a lifelong Republican.

He said that the reason that each check was made out to a separate committee for \$3,000 was that then he would not have to pay gift taxes. This is standard practice for large contributors to political parties.

He said that, to his recollection, all 330 committees to which he had sent his contributions, were based in Washington.