

More Nixon Contributions Emerge

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Secret documents from the 1972 Nixon presidential campaign, including a mysterious list of donors code-named "Alpha Four," show new discrepancies and unreported contributions of at least \$1 million.

There are indications the total may eventually reach millions more. This is all in addition to the \$60.2 million in contributions finally admitted by Nixon fund-raisers last September under heavy pressure from Common Cause.

Buried in that whopping kitty was a \$10,000 gift collected from a pair of Miami businessmen by the President's crony, banker Bebe Rebozo. The partners in Atlantic Investors of Miami, Jay I. Kislak and Alec Courtelis, gave the money to Rebozo hoping he would tell the President about it.

"If you're going to make a contribution," Kislak told us candidly, "you want to get as close to the guy as you can get, don't you?"

As far as we can determine, Rebozo turned the money over to the campaign without belaboring President Nixon about it.

In previous cases, as we have reported, Rebozo collected \$100,000 from Howard Hughes and \$10,000 from the Davis brothers, who founded the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain.

The new \$1 million discrepancy was turned up by investi-

gators for Common Cause. The citizens' lobby got some of its information, we have discovered, by threatening to serve a subpoena on Rose Mary Woods, the President's secretary.

Under this pressure, the White House turned over her list of secret contributors to Common Cause. The citizens' group also has winnowed data from sealed depositions of Rebozo, Nixon lawyer Herb Kalmbach and others.

Finally, they have obtained an alphabetized four-column list titled "Alpha Four," containing contributors' names and financial work papers of the Nixon re-election committee.

Besides this curiously unaccounted-for \$1 million, the Common Cause sleuths believe many millions more in donations remain unreported, but they lack documents to back it up.

There is evidence, for instance, that huge sums were pledged to the Nixon campaign and secretly paid into state committees to avoid federal accounting. One committee was set up under the Republican National Committee's umbrella, but money was funneled out of it for White House uses, the sleuths found.

Large amounts were also "contributed in kind" in the form of airline tickets, rent-a-cars, credit-card charges and the like.

Footnote: Common Cause lawyers Mitch Rogovin and Ken Guido, who pried loose most of

the new data, refused comment except to say new court action is planned soon. Lawyers for the Nixon fund-raisers did not return our calls.

Rolling Over The Handicapped: An American company, which has cornered a dominant share of the world market in wheelchairs, has been accused of rolling up \$16 million a year in sales at the expense of this country's handicapped.

In a still confidential draft report, the Center for Concerned Engineering charges that Everest & Jennings International is selling virtually the same wheelchairs in America for \$495 that it markets in Great Britain for \$135. The group rated the British chair as being better, since it is equipped with pneumatic front tires.

Ralf Hotchkiss, director of the engineering center, said he made an international tour checking the availability of wheelchairs and found that the handicapped in other countries fare better than Americans, both in price and in design.

During his investigative trip to England, Hotchkiss said he visited the largest E & J distributor and placed an order for 10 wheelchairs.

"We went through all the paperwork and then the salesman asked where I wanted the wheelchairs shipped," Hotchkiss said. "I gave him my American address and he told me he was not allowed to ship the

cheaper chairs to the United States."

The biggest unfulfilled need in wheelchairs, the center's draft concluded, is to make them narrow enough to carry their passengers through bathroom doors.

Our investigation shows that the top three E & J officers, all members of the Jennings family, collected more than \$500,000 a year in salaries, dividends and other benefits — not including a generous retirement plan.

E & J's American competitors, the engineer center said, are content to sell virtually the same models as E & J, at virtually the same prices.

In Los Angeles, a spokesman for E & J firmly defended his company saying wheelchairs are fairly priced from \$105 to about \$1,000 for special, powered models. The company has constantly improved its American product, he said, and profits were not high.

O'Neal's Side: In December, we told how former Rep. Maston O'Neal (D-Ga.) contacted his old House colleague, Small Business Administrator Thomas Kleppe, about a contract for O'Neal's son-in-law. O'Neal declined to return our call at the time. Now, he has assured us he did not contact Kleppe on the contract, but on a different business matter concerning his son-in-law. O'Neal denies he tried to influence Kleppe or that he has any financial stake in his son-in-law's firm.

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