

Stans Ducks Corporate Donation Ban

By Jack Anderson

President Nixon's embattled money raiser, Maurice Stans, has been twisting corporate arms for campaign contributions.

Under the law, corporations are forbidden from contributing to political campaigns. However, here's how Stans is getting around the law:

He sent a typical solicitation, for example, to Montgomery Ward, the department store chain. It was carefully addressed not to the corporation but to all its "management and key employees."

"For those of us who have made our career in business," wrote Stans, "the presidential election in 1972 is critical. . . . It is to your self-interest to ensure an administration in the federal government that is philosophically dedicated to maintaining and building the system in which you have invested."

Campaign Pitch

The message impressed those who inhabit Montgomery Ward's executive suite. Off went a letter, marked "Personal and Confidential," to "all key management persons in our entire company"

from corporate vice president Richard Abbott.

"The business corporation, by law, cannot make political contributions," wrote Abbott. "However, nothing prevents our making individual contributions through the good offices of our company. . . ."

"There is considerable merit to the idea of combining all of our contributions into one mailing. With this in mind, Mr. Donnell (Edward Donnell, president of Montgomery Ward) has asked that I receive all of the checks and forward the entire batch to him. . . ."

"Checks should be made payable to FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT."

"Again, I cannot stress the fact strongly enough that this is your business, not mine or the company's. But for those of us who do wish to contribute, there can be great benefit in giving Mr. Donnell the opportunity to personally present all of our checks together to Mr. Stans."

Similar collections are being taken up in dozens of other corporations at the prodding of Stans. We have evidence that Litton Industries even provided the Nixon campaign organization with a mailing

list of its high-level employees.

The corporation denies this. But management people, who were dunned for contributions by the GOP, told us the addresses in the form they were used could only have come from the company. In 1970, a group of Litton officials reportedly gave \$150,000 to the Republicans.

The law against corporate contributions, meanwhile, remains technically inviolate.

Footnote: Montgomery Ward's Richard Abbott explained to us that a similar Democratic appeal for funds had also been distributed to corporate executives and managers. However, the Democratic appeal was accompanied by a routine memo. The Republican appeal was supported by a strong corporate pitch.

Political Neutrality

Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir has assured two leading Democrats that she wants to keep her country out of the U.S. presidential campaign.

"Israel could only lose if Israeli-American relations should become a campaign issue," she told Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) and Myer

Feldman, president of McGovern for President, Inc.

Church called upon the prime minister as part of a Middle East fact-finding mission for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was accompanied by Feldman.

The senator explained that some Israeli diplomats had spread the word among Jewish-American leaders that Israel would prefer to see President Nixon re-elected.

She flatly repudiated this. She didn't disavow Nixon but merely expressed official neutrality on the U.S. election. She would affirm Israel's hands-off attitude, she promised Church, if she should be asked.

Footnote: The senator is preparing a Senate report that will call the refugee question the key to peace in the Middle East. The Arab refugees must be resettled and removed as a friction point, he will contend, before a settlement can be reached. He was told by Israeli officials that Israel is willing to make territorial concessions, even including Jordan's west bank, in return for matching Arab concessions.