

Net Worth Basis for Donations

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A California construction executive was identified yesterday as one of a number of business leaders pressured to contribute to President Nixon's re-election campaign a percentage of their own net worth.

The executive is Ralph M. Parsons, chairman of Ralph M. Parsons Co. of Los Angeles, whose annual sales total more than \$500 million. Parsons was asked to contribute a percentage of his net worth by Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

"Mr. Parsons was told by Mr. Stans that he was being assessed a campaign contribution on the basis of his net worth," said Joseph Volpe, director of the Washington office of Ralph M. Parsons Co. "The request was referred to me, and I told Mr. Stans that such a contribution was out of the question.

"I told Mr. Stans that Mr. Parsons would contribute something to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign," Volpe went on, "but not on the basis that he (Stans) described."

Records filed with the Gen-

eral Accounting Office by the Nixon re-election committee show that Parsons contributed \$75,000 to the 1972 campaign, but this is apparently far short of the percentage of Parsons' net worth sought by Stans.

Volpe did not say how much Stans asked for, but it is believed to be one or two percent of Parsons' net worth.

Parsons' net worth is not known, but if he had made such a contribution it would have totaled several times the \$75,000 he contributed to the campaign last year.

Parsons is the third identified business leader solicited by Republican campaign aides in this manner.

Henry Ford II was solicited by Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's onetime personal attorney. Ford admitted giving \$50,000 to the President's re-election campaign after the Kalmbach visit.

The American Motors Corp. Washington representative, William M. Trevarrow, received a similar visit from Robert P. Odell Jr., executive director of the Republican National Committee's Finance Committee. Odell asked Trevarrow for \$100,000 to be contributed by American Motors Chairman Roy D. Chapin Jr. and other executives.

Trevarrow passed the request to Frank Hedge, vice president for public relations, who refused it. Hedge was personally backed by Chapin, who said there would be no such contributions to the campaign.