

Leader Mum On Oil Firms' Political Aid

NEW YORK, Nov. 22 (AP) — W. W. Keeler, former board chairman of the Phillips Petroleum Co., has declined to testify to the Senate Watergate committee staff about the oil industry's political contributions, The New York Times reported today.

Quoting the committee's assistant chief counsel, David M. Dorsen, the Times said Keeler and Carstens Slack, who heads Phillips' Washington office, invoked the Fifth Amendment's protection against possible self-incrimination on Wednesday.

Each refused to testify about illegal contributions by Phillips, which have been disclosed previously, and about the possibility of money from elsewhere in the petroleum industry, the Times said.

Keeler was said to have been coordinator for the industry's political contributions in 1972. His company, along with Gulf Oil and Ashland Oil, admitted earlier this year that each made an illegal \$100,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Phillips is the only of seven companies that admitted making such contributions not yet charged in court, and an attorney for Keeler and Slack said their refusal to testify stemmed from possible criminal charges that were "not yet resolved," the Times said.