

Ervin Committee to Seek

9/15/73

By Morton Mintz

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A White House master list of more than \$19 million in early contributions to President Nixon's reelection campaign will be sought by the Senate Select Watergate committee "at the appropriate time," a committee spokesman told a reporter last night.

The White House has had the list since last June. It was during that month, Maurice H. Stans testified Wednesday, the records of the early contributions to the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President were destroyed at his directive.

White House counsel Leonard Garment, who supplied a copy of the list on June 6 to Common Cause, a citizens' lobby, had no immediate comment on whether another copy would be turned over to the Senate unit.

Common Cause is under an order by U.S. District Judge Joseph C. Waddy to keep its copy under seal pending further developments in its pending lawsuit to compel the finance committee to bare its financial transactions in the period before April 7, 1972. On that date the current election campaign disclosure law took effect.

At the White House, the

list has been in the custody of Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's long-time personal secretary.

Gerald L. Warren, deputy presidential press secretary, said this was routine, because she received all kinds of lists—from political, congressional, ethnic, labor and other groups—from which she compiled invitations to White House prayer meetings, dinners and other functions.

The President never looked at the list, Warren told a reporter.

A week after Garment gave the White House copy of the contributors' list to Common Cause, former

Commerce Secretary Stans was being pressed on Capitol Hill to explain why he lacked complete documentation on contributions made before the disclosure law becomes effective.

"Some of the records were removed from the committee's files and destroyed," Stans told select committee chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.). He added that he recalled some of the large contributions and was reconstructing a list of others from separate sources.

Stans defended the destruction with a contention in dispute in the Common Cause litigation—that there was no legal requirement to

White House Early Donor List

keep such records. That being so, he argued, he had no right to deprive contributors of the privacy some of them sought.

Shortly before the November election, Common Cause got a court order under which the finance committee disclosed contributors who gave about \$5 million through March 9, 1972. That was the eve of the final reporting day under the old election law. The citizens lobby has been trying ever since to force disclosure of the contributors who gave more than \$14 million between March 10 and April 7,

the date the new law took effect.

The master list is reported to identify individuals who gave the \$14 million and to associate some with particular companies, including defense contractors and automobile, electronics and oil firms.

The existence of a master list was first disclosed by Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of the finance committee.

In an early deposition to Common Cause, Sloan said that in the period before April 7, 1972, the Nixon organization collected more than \$1 million in cash.

Sloan said he destroyed the raw records but prepared a summary sheet that he gave to Stans. The finance committee chairman told the Senate committee Wednesday that he ordered that list destroyed on June 23, six days after the Watergate break-in.

However, Sloan said, a master list of most donors who gave at least \$1,000 was prepared last June, with a copy going to the White House.

Last May 25, in a new deposition Sloan told Common Cause that the list had been

in the possession of Miss Woods.

Common Cause lawyers Mitchell Rogovin and Kenneth J. Guido Jr. asked White House counsel Garment to try to find the list. He sent it to them on June 6.

The lawyers described the paper as "at least a partial listing of the pre-April 7 contributions, including over \$1 million in currency and another \$18 million in checks and securities."

The new deposition, like the Common Cause copy of the list, is under seal by Judge Waddy.