

Stockholders Seek Redress On '72 Funds

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Stockholders of four corporations convicted of making illegal campaign contributions in 1972 are trying to get the executives involved fired or at least fined.

"They owe it to shareholders to explain why they are keeping plush jobs after committing these acts," said Susan Gross, a spokesman for the nonprofit Project on Corporate Responsibility.

Ms. Gross said the project, which holds two shares of Gulf Oil Co., Friday sent a "demand letter" asking the board of directors of the firm to justify the continued employment of Vice President Claude C. Wild Jr. and any other involved executives.

Some shareholders of American Airlines, Braniff International Airways and Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing have already sent similar "demand letters," according to Washington lawyer Alan B.

Morrison.

American, Braniff, Gulf and 3M pleaded guilty last fall to contributing a total of \$235,000 in corporate funds to President Nixon's re-election campaign. Gulf also admitted giving corporate funds to the presidential campaigns of Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) and Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.).

Four other corporations also have pleaded guilty to making illegal campaign contributions, but it is not known whether shareholders have taken similar actions. They are a subsidiary of Ashland Oil and Ashland Chairman Orin E. Atkins, Carnation Co., Goodyear Tire and Rubber, and Phillips petroleum, which said former Chairman W. W. Keeler donated \$100,000 without permission of the directors.

Federal law prohibits the donation of corporate funds to political campaigns.

Under corporate law, stockholders have "derivative" rights to question the actions of executives.

The Nixon re-election committee said it returned more than \$2 million in corporate contributions after the campaign. Gulf and Goodyear were reimbursed last July 26. It is not known when the other corporations were repaid.