

Bus Firm Admits Campaign Abuse

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The Greyhound Corp. pleaded guilty yesterday to a misdemeanor charge of making illegal contributions totaling \$16,040 to the 1972 presidential campaigns of Richard M. Nixon and George McGovern.

U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Gasch deferred sentencing. The maximum possible fine is \$5,000.

Thomas D. Finney, representing the Phoenix, Ariz., headquartered firm, said that officers of the corporation were reimbursed through company bonuses for contributions to the presidential candidates.

Finney said that Greyhound's chairman and chief executive officer, Gerald Troutman, solicited the contributions from lesser officials. Finney said he did not know who has asked Troutman to contribute.

"We intended no violation," Finney told the judge, but he said the firm was pleading guilty because "there is some value in alerting other companies that any subsequent use of bonuses" to reimburse contributions might be a violation of the law.

He said he did not know how much of the total went to each campaign.

The information filed by the Watergate special prosecutor charged that senior officials of Greyhound were encouraged to contribute personal funds to the presidential candidate of their choice.

The charge said Greyhound then awarded "to each executive that made a contribution supplemental bonuses in an amount twice the amount of the previous contribution."

Greyhound was the 16th corporation to be charged with violating the law against corporate campaign contributions. Fifteen firms pleaded guilty and one was acquitted.