

L.A. Affidavit Indicates Northrop Had Secret Fund

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 12 (AP)—An affidavit filed in shareholders' suit claims that top executives of the Northrop Corp., a Los Angeles-based aerospace firm, made illegal corporate contributions to political campaigns for 13 years.

The allegations were filed in U.S. District Court here this week in connection with the attempt to get help from a French court in obtaining sworn testimony from William Savy, a European aerospace executive who lives in Paris.

Northrop Vice President James Allen was quoted in the affidavit as saying that the company maintained a \$1.2 million fund for political contributions.

The affidavit said Allen and other company officials have made depositions in the case. However, records show the depositions have not been filed with the court. The affidavit

from the Shareholders' lawyers said it was a summary of evidence taken from the depositions.

The affidavit, disclosed Friday, said Allen described Savy as a key figure in the laundering of Northrop political contributions, providing money for the 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns of former President Nixon, his 1968 opponent, Hubert H. Humphrey, and for some California candidates.

The original suit was filed in May. It said stockholders were misled by proxy material for the 1973 board election and called for the removal of Northrop President Thomas V. Jones and two other executives from the board of directors "pending a fair election."

The initial disclosure of the contributions came during the Senate Watergate committee hearings last year.

Northrop, Jones and Allen pleaded guilty in May to charges involving \$150,000 in illegal corporate contributions to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign. At that time, the board issued a statement saying Jones would remain as president and calling the illegal donations "an abnormal departure" from company policies.

The affidavit said such contributions were not "abnormal."

"Rather, these secret campaign contributions were begun in 1961 and have been made in virtually every federal election since 1961," the affidavit said.

The affidavit said Jones hired Savy in 1961 as a consultant. It said his duties included returning Northrop corporate funds to Allen in cash, outside normal accounting procedures.