

Senators Grill Envoy Nominee On '72 Role With Nixon Donors

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As a White House political operative in the 1972 election campaign it was 33-year-old Stanton D. Anderson's job to grill Nixon contributors, large and small, for ambassadorships and other high-ranking administration positions.

Yesterday it was Anderson's turn on the griddle when he faced a critical barrage of questions from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at a hearing on his nomination as ambassador to Costa Rica—the refuge of Nixon 1972 campaign donor Robert L. Vesco.

Anderson assured inquiring senators that despite his work both in the White House and the Committee for the re-election of the President, he had received a clean bill from the Senate Watergate committee which investigated his role in the White House scandal.

"The minority staff," Anderson told his committee questioners, "indicated that they reached the conclusion that I had not done anything illegal or unethical." Minority counsel to the Watergate committee, Fred Thompson, was not available for comment. Another Watergate committee staff source said he was unaware of any final determination on Anderson's role.

The rangy and well-groomed former director of the Young Republican national organization, who has no diplomatic experience, acknowledged his involvement in the Nixon administration's secret "responsiveness program" during the 1972 campaign year.

Run by Anderson's former boss, the White House special assistant for personnel, Frederic V. Malek, the program was designed to harness the day-to-day decision-making power of the federal executive agencies to help in the President's reelection effort.

In a confidential memorandum on March 17, 1972, released yesterday by the Foreign Relations Committee, Malek told former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman of the tight security measures used in the program.

The risk of "adverse pub-



STANTON D. ANDERSON
... defends 1972 role

licity," Malek wrote Haldeman, was the program's most significant drawback. One precaution, he said, would be to "keep the President and the White House disassociated with the program in the event of a leak."

Malek also said that there would be "no written communications" about the responsiveness program from the White House to the departments. All oral and written communications, Malek wrote, "would be structured to give the impression that the program was initiated by the department head without the knowledge of the White House."

Under questioning yesterday by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) Anderson acknowledged that he was aware of the secrecy strictures in the program. He said the reason for them was because the federal agency program was "politically sensitive."

In the Malek memorandum, classified "extremely sensitive," it was announced

that the various federal departments to gain their expected to cultivate the leaders of organized groups which are affected by the department to gain their support and the support of their groups for the President's re-election."

Anderson was twice questioned by Senate Watergate committee investigators and the responsiveness program is expected to figure importantly in the final report on the committee's investigation.

In describing his involvement, Anderson said he and Malek met with Cabinet members and "outlined to each of them the political priorities—key states, key counties, vote bloc mathematics. These were the kinds of priorities that each presidential appointee should apply."

Youth and inexperience were two other areas in which Anderson drew critical flak from members of the Foreign Relations Committee. If confirmed, he would become the youngest U.S. ambassador.

"There are a lot of people," observed Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), "who have devoted their lives to the Foreign Service. The practice of rewarding political efforts with this government is most critical in this most sensitive of all agencies (the State Department)."

Anderson replied that he had sought the views of State Department officials and "without exception they thought I could handle it." He added that he hadn't asked for the job. He was recommended for it by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, he said.