

Nader Unit May Get Fund Data

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A federal judge indicated yesterday that he will allow attorneys for a Ralph Nader group access to bank records concerning contributions to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President as long as the lawyers do not make the records public.

The action came in a suit by Ralph Nader's Public Citizen, Inc., attempting to force the government to rescind a milk price-support increase.

U.S. District Judge William B. Jones said that he had inspected the records and saw no reason for the Nader group to be denied access to them. But he said he would give the government time to further oppose his actions.

Jones denied a request by the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President to intervene in the suit.

Public Citizen's suit claims that then-Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin reversed himself and raised milk-support prices after three dairy co-ops gave more than \$300,000 to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Thomas Jackson, an attorney for the committee, had protested the turning over of the First National Bank of Washington bank records, saying the campaign group has an obligation to protect the privacy of its contributors before the new campaign financing law went into effect April 7.

Jackson said that three hours after a previous set of bank records were made available to the Nader unit, stories began appearing in newspapers about the contributors.

While attorney William A. Dobrovir for the Nader group said he felt there was no right of privacy involved in campaign contributions, Jones said he would probably sign a protective order that only the lawyers could have access to the records.

Dobrovir said later that lawyers can be held in contempt of court if they violate a protective order.