

Statement Ties Humphrey Aide To Milk Money

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Advertising executive Barry Nova has signed a sworn statement saying Hubert H. Humphrey's campaign manager arranged for an illegal \$12,000 corporate payment in 1970.

The campaign manager, Jack L. Chestnut of Minneapolis, has invoked the Fifth Amendment and refused to testify before the Senate Watergate committee about corporate payments to the Humphrey campaigns in 1970 and 1972.

Humphrey has said he was unaware of the corporate money.

Nova's sworn and notarized work for Humphrey's 1970 Senate campaign, said in his statement that Chestnut asked him to forward some of his bills to the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. The co-op admitted Thursday that it illegally had paid \$12,000 of the bills out of corporate funds.

Nova's sworn and notarized statement is in the open files of the Senate Watergate committee.

The files contain copies of a letter signed by Chestnut asking the milk producer's lobbyist, Bob A. Lilly, to pay the bills. There also is a statement quoting Lilly as saying he sent \$12,000 in corporate checks to Chestnut to forward to the advertising firm. Copies of the two \$6,000 checks, made out on the corporation account, are included.

During the 1970 campaign Nova worked as a political advertising specialist in the now-bankrupt firm of Lennen & Newell, headquartered in New York.

Recalling the Senate race, Nova said in his statement, "Early in the campaign I received a telephone call from the Humphrey campaign manager, Jack Chestnut, who requested that Lennen & Newell submit its next regular



JACK L. CHESTNUT

... refused to testify

monthly invoice to an organization he identified as the 'American Milk Producers,' rather than directly to the campaign headquarters."

Although Chestnut or Nova seem to have gotten the co-op's name wrong, the Watergate files show Lennen & Newell eventually sent four invoices for \$3,000 each to "Associated Milk Producers, Inc., c/o Bob A. Lilly." Each bill bore the words, "Consulting fee for Minnesota."

Lilly's lawyer, Anthony Nicholas of San Antonio, said in a statement to the Watergate committee. "This billing was to be for services rendered but in truth and in fact, the money was to go to Jack Chestnut for the Hubert H. Humphrey campaign at the time."

He said Lilly acted on instructions of the co-op's then general manager, Harold S. Nelson, who has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to give illegal corporate money to Humphrey and others.