

\$5,000 in Dairymen's Funds Financed Ellsberg Burglary

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A secret \$5,000 Nixon campaign contribution from the dairy industry was used to cover the costs of the White House "plumbers' " break-in at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, it was learned yesterday.

Three men who handled the money said that former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson handled the transaction. All said they had no idea of what the \$5,000 was used for until they were contacted by Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox' office.

The money was part of \$422,500 contributed by the political arms of three dairy farm co-ops in 1971 and 1972, allegedly as a payoff for a controversial Nixon administration increase in milk price supports.

The burglary attempt at the Beverly Hills, Calif., offices of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis M. Fielding, was carried out on the night of Sept. 3, 1971.

A Washington public relations executive, Joseph Baroody, said yesterday that Colson called him in late August — "it must have been in the last day or two of the month" — for a hurry-up \$5,000 loan.

"It was made clear to me that there was a temporary need for the money," Baroody said, but he said he did not ask what that need was.

Baroody said he supposed Colson called him because he was working at the time to drum up support, and funds, for the Citizens for a New Prosperity, an ad hoc citizens group that was being organized on behalf of Mr. Nixon's new economic policies.

However, Baroody said he did not draw on Citizens for a

New Prosperity funds. "I figured that here was one easy way to do it," he said, and "basically," he said, that was to use his own money for the short-term loan.

"It was his (Colson's) responsibility to get it back to me," Baroody said.

The diary money was used to repay Baroody. Marion E. Harrison, Washington attorney for the three dairy co-ops, said Colson called him sometime before Sept. 3 and gave him the name and address of a paper political committee to which \$5,000 could be contributed.

Harrison was at the time getting names of dozens of dummy committees from Nixon campaign headquarters as designated recipients of the dairy industry money. He said he thought Colson was doing a favor in supplying him with another: People United for Good Government, with headquarters at the law offices of Washington lawyer George D. Webster on Jefferson Place.

As a result, Harrison said he got the \$5,000 from an official of the Associated Milk Producers, Inc., and turned it to Webster a few days later, on Sept. 7, 1971. He said he might have gotten the money from AMPI at its Chicago convention — which Mr. Nixon addressed the night of Sept. 3, 1971, while the "plumbers" were breaking into Fielding's offices in California.

The head of "Lawyers for Nixon" in the 1968 campaign, Webster said he had organized a string of committees early in 1971 at Colson's request to handle a \$51,000 contribution from a donor he declined to identify.

He said Colson subsequently called him to find out if there was one left over that could handle a \$5,000 payment. Web-

ster said he supplied People United for Good Government.

After getting the \$5,000 check from Harrison on the account of AMPI's Trust for Agricultural and Political Education, Webster said Colson called him again to ask him to convert it to cash and keep it in his office until Colson sent someone over to pick up the money.

Webster said he drew the cash on Sept. 21 and that it was picked up by Baroody shortly after that, while Webster was out of town. "I left instructions with my secretary to give it to whoever Mr. Colson sent over," Webster said. "He called my office while I was out of town and said it would be Mr. Baroody."

All three men said prosecutors from Cox' office told them in July that the \$5,000 had apparently been used to pick up the costs of the Fielding break-in. The prosecutor's office made the conclusion even firmer in an Aug. 7 memo obtained by The Washington Post which stated that Webster was "involved in the \$5,000 loan to Colson for the Ellsberg break-in."