Ex-Nixon Aide Guilty In Fund-Raising Case

By Timothy S. Robinson Washington Post Staff Writer

Former White House aide . Jack A. Gleason pleaded guilty yesterday to running an illegal fund-raising operation organized by the White House in 1970 to raise and distribute funds for the congressional elections that year.

Gleason, who will be sentenced later by U.S. District Court Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr., could face a maximum jail term of one year in jail or a fine of \$1,000 on the

misdemeanor plea.

Herbert W. Kalmbach, ex-President Nixon's former personal attorney and fund-raiser, pleaded guilty in February to charges growing out of the same fund-raising operation. He currently is serving a jail term of 6-to-18 months. Watergate special prosecutors have said that the investigation into the illegal operation is contin-

Gleason, 38, of Washington, entered his plea to one count of aiding and abetting a violation of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act. Essentially, a criminal information filed by Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Charles Ruff said that the fund-raising committee was illegal because it was not organized with a chairman and a treasurer, as required

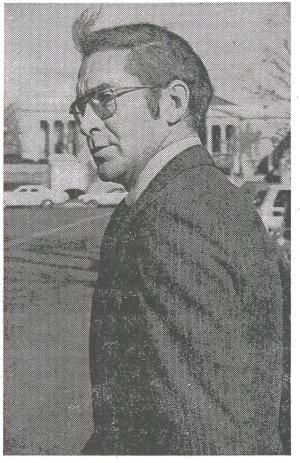
by law.

The fund-raising activity, which came to be known as 'Operation Townhouse," raised more than \$3 million that was funneled, at White House direction, into 1970 at 1310 19th St. NW, and prosecutors said that Gleason was "essentially the administrator" of the fund.

by certain members of the Ruff said dring a brief court session in which Gleason entered his plea. The prosecutor did not mention anyone else involved other than Kalm-

bach. York, was detached to the project from the staff of then-White House political adviser mittees that were to get the kota,

for the fund-raising drive by produced more than \$12 mil-sentencing in the case.



Associated Press

Jack Gleason, ex-White House aide, bfeore verdict.

staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman.

Although the Gleason role Congressional races. It oper- in the operation, was not outated in a backroom office in lined in detail yesterday, Gleason's attorney, Arthur I. ing a civil suit that: "The proessentially the administrator" solicit contributions for this fifth fund.

The operation was organized house and advise Mr. Gleason plea. White House staff, prosecutor made the pledges. It was his of the person or persons who responsibility to then talk to

According to Watergate prosecutors, "Operation Townsional fund-raiser from New house" doled out money to Senate and House GOP candi- jurisdiction of this office," dates in Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Harry Dent to implement the program and designate the Missouri, New Jersey, New congressional campaign com-mittees that were to get the kota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennesse, Texas, Utah, Ver- matters under investigation." Kalmbach previously has mont and Wyoming. Gleason testified that he was enlisted once reportedly boasted that it personal bond pending his

former White House chief of lion for the congressional elections that year.

A letter from Special Prosecutor Henry B. Ruth Jr. to the basement of a town house Kalmbach once testified dur- Cantor, was released yesterday outlining the agreements cedure that I followed was to between the special prosecu-

> "This plea dispose (s) of potential charges against Mr. Gleason based on matters presently known to this office ... Mr. Gleason will make full and truthful disclosure of all information and documents in his knowledge and possession relevant to matters within the the letter said in part.

> In addition, the agreement calls for Gleason to testify on behalf of the government in "any hearing, trial or other proceeding arising out of the

> Gleason was released on