

Calif. GOP Aide Admits '72 Fund for Leftists

PH 7/13/73

By Doug Willis

Sacramento, Calif. (AP)—July 11—A Republican aide says that he made secret payments to left-wing candidates for the California legislature last year and that he converted GOP checks into postal money orders to conceal the source.

Frank DeLong, an employe of the Republican caucus of the state assembly, in an interview Wednesday described how payments were made to Peace and Freedom party candidates and how they were concealed.

DeLong said, however, that he transferred only about \$800, not the \$3,500 to \$5,000 described in earlier reports.

He added that the money was intended to help qualify P&F candidates for the ballot to split the Democratic vote in three state assembly races, all of which, nevertheless, were ultimately won by Democrats.

He said the secret funding started as "a reaction to our belief this was standard operating procedure of Democrats" in financing conserva-

tive American Independent Party candidates.

"We figured we had been beaten in 1970 because it had been done to us," he said.

Asked for details of the transactions, DeLong said he purchased money orders with four or five personal checks given to him by Jerry Simpson, the chief staff officer for former State Assemblyman Bob Monagan.

Monagan, who later resigned his Assembly seat to accept U.S. Transportation Department post in the Nixon administration, was then GOP floor leader in the Assembly.

Asked why he used money orders, DeLong explained, "It seemed the most convenient. It (Simpson's personal check) would be hard for them to cash, and there would be a record. This is the way we decided to keep it least obvious and more secure.

"It was an attempt to keep the whole thing from coming to the surface. Obviously it was something we didn't want publicized."