

GOP Aide Fired After Taking Fee

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By Bob Woodward
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The Republican National Committee co-chairman said yesterday that he has fired his special assistant Douglas W. English Jr. following disclosure that English was paid \$5,000 for assisting a Washington builder obtain a loan from a New York bank.

Thomas B. Evans, the Republican co-chairman, said that he is "opposed to anyone using his connection with the Republican Party for an economic gain."

An article in yesterday's Washington Post disclosed that English helped secure the loan by contacting U.S. Postal Service banking director James T. Blair.

Blair in turn said that he contacted the vice president in charge of government banking at the First National City Bank. The bank later granted the loan of \$500,000 to Dr. Cyrus Katzen, the Washington builder.

English received a \$5,000 check for assisting with the loan. The check was made out to him by Cyrus T. Anderson, a lobbyist due to come to trial this fall on charges of bribing former U.S. Sen. Daniel B. Brewster to influence legislation on "junk mail" rates.

Anderson said he made the \$5,000 payment on instructions from Dr. Katzen, who is a business associate. Dr. Katzen said the \$5,000 fee was a standard payment for arranging a loan, but said he had no idea that the postal banking director Blair was involved in the transaction.

Yesterday, Republican co-chairman Evans said that English first refused to disclose that any government official was involved in the loan.

"He wasn't being candid with me. That is enough to

GOP Fires Aide After Pay-off

CHECK, From A1

dismiss him," Evans said. Evans said that English finally left him a note Friday acknowledging that he had contacted Blair about the loan.

"I've been unable to reach English to inform him that he's dismissed . . . but we can't put up with this, so I've dictated a letter to him telling him," Evans said.

In addition, Evans said that any information he has about the transaction would be made

available to any government department or agency that might investigate the matter.

On Friday, postal banking director Blair said that he was unaware that English would receive any fee such as the \$5,000 for helping arrange the loan. Blair said he made the call to First National City Bank only as a favor to English, who is a friend.

There is a notation "Investigatory Services" typed in the lower left hand corner of the

\$5,000 check to English. That space is usually to specify the reason for payment but Anderson, the writer of the check, could offer no explanation for the use of that phrase.

English, 35, was in charge of placing advertising for the Republicans in the party's program for their National Convention to be held Aug. 21 in Miami Beach. He began working for the Republicans in June at a \$25,000-a-year salary.