

Gulf Discloses \$100,000 Gift To Nixon Fund

By William Chapman
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The Gulf Oil Corp. acknowledged yesterday that because of "intense" political pressure it contributed \$100,000 last year to President Nixon's campaign finance committee.

B. R. Dorsey, chairman of Gulf's board, said the company contributed the money after representatives

of the Finance Committee To Reelect the President made "persistent requests" to the company's Washington representative.

"This pressure was intense and at the time it was thought to be irresistible by our Washington representatives," Dorsey said in a statement responding to queries by The Washington Post.

"Nevertheless, the pressure should have been resisted whatever the consequences."

It is illegal for corporations to make political contributions. The money was returned by the Finance Committee after the company requested it, Dorsey's statement said.

Gulf is the third major corporation to acknowledge publicly that it contributed funds to the President's reelection campaign. Ashland Oil Co. gave \$100,000 in corporate funds and American Airlines gave \$55,000.

Both said the contributions had been solicited and American Airlines chairman George A. Spater named Herbert W. Kalmbach, then the President's personal lawyer, as the man who had asked for the money.

Gulf's executives refused to identify the "representatives" from the finance committee who solicited the money through its Washington representative, Claude C. Wild Jr. Wild could not be reached for elaboration yesterday.

Information on Gulf's con-

tribution had been given earlier to the staff of Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox. "We have assured his office of our willingness to cooperate fully," Dorsey said.

Several other corporations reportedly have made similar admissions to Cox's staff but their names have not been revealed.

Cox has urged such companies to acknowledge the contributions. While asserting that there will be no "quid pro quo" in exchange for the voluntary admission, Cox said that early acknowledgments might be considered as "mitigating circumstances" in determining what charges are to be brought against those companies by his office. A new

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grand jury is to begin considering charges of illegal contributions next week.

A spokesman for Cox's office indicated yesterday that the offer of "mitigating circumstances" is limited. "If a corporation's officers disclose illegal corporate contributions only after our investigation focuses on that particular corporation one might question how voluntary that decision is," he said.

A list of contributors, expected to include the names of many corporate executives, is scheduled to be made public on Sept. 28. Its disclosure was ordered as a result of a suit brought by a citizens lobby, Common Cause.

In his statement issued in Pittsburgh after a meeting of top executives yesterday, Dorsey said the Gulf contribution was unknown to the board of directors.

He said, "The company was not seeking any special favors and did not have any corporate activity under government scrutiny.

"There was enormous

pressure in the political system and the fact that others apparently also yielded is evidence of this."

Dorsey said, "We are determined that no one in Gulf shall ever engage in this kind of activity again and we have taken the necessary measures to see that they do not."