

# Stans Fined \$5,000 For Five Violations

By J. Y. Smith

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Maurice H. Stans, former President Nixon's chief political fund-raiser and his first Secretary of Commerce, yesterday was fined \$5,000 for violating federal campaign laws.

In a brief hearing U.S. District Court Judge John Lewis Smith Jr. sentenced Stans, 67, who asked for the court's "understanding and leniency."

He faced a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine on each of five misdemeanor counts to which he pleaded guilty on March 12.

A few minutes after Smith acted, Stans walked into the sunlight outside the courthouse and read a statement, which said in part:

"I want especially to point out that I have been fully exonerated of any improper activities in connection with Watergate and its aftermath. Considering the technical nature of the charge to which I have appeared in court today, I believe I have vindicated my plea to the Senate Watergate committee in 1973 to give me back my good name."

Stans was the third member of Nixon's Cabinet to plead guilty or to be convicted of

charges arising from the Watergate scandals.

He was the last of the major Nixon administration figures to be sentenced.

Among those who directly served Nixon and who were caught up in the scandals, only Frank DeMarco, the former President's tax attorney, and Ralph G. Newman, an appraiser of rare documents, still face trial. They are accused of conspiracy in Nixon's effort to get tax advantages in return for donating his pre-presidential papers to the government.

The charges to which Stans had pleaded guilty were three counts of failing to report contributions to Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign totaling \$150,000 in violation of the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act, and two counts of unwittingly accepting the illegal contributions from corporations.

Stans entered the pleas after several months of bargaining with members of the Watergate Special prosecution team. The prosecutors reportedly told him they were con-

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considering seeking felony indictments against him.

Smith explained why he imposed no jail term or probation by saying, "It is not alleged Mr. Stans personally profited, that money went into his pocket."

Stans told the judge, "I am very deeply sorry that I

caused these matters to come to the attention of the court . . ." I want to assure your honor I did not intentionally violate any law."

In earlier Watergate cases, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell received a 30-month to 8-year sentence in the cover-up, and former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst received a 30-day jail term and a \$100 fine, both of which were suspended, for failing to testify fully before a committee.

A fourth former Cabinet member charged, John B. Con-

nally, was acquitted after trial on charges of receiving illegal payments.

Smith said that after taking into consideration the primary purpose of sentencing — rehabilitation, deterrence, protection of the public and punishment — he determined "the end of justice would best be served by a monetary penalty."

Stans became Secretary of Commerce at the beginning of Nixon's first term in 1969 and held that post until he resigned in 1972 to head the Fi-

nance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Under his direction, the finance committee raised more than \$60 million.

Stans, who also was Nixon's chief fund-raiser in 1968, had served as deputy postmaster general and deputy director of the budget under President Eisenhower.

As he left the courthouse, Stans told reporters, "Now, all I want to do is go home to my wife, who you know is not well, and do everything I can to help her regain her health."