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D.C. bank joins the suers of presidential contributor

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP) — A major Washington bank has joined a growing line of creditors bringing court action against Walter T. Duncan, one of the biggest yet most elusive contributors to the 1972 presidential election campaign.

The National Bank of Washington is suing Duncan for non-payment of a \$200,000 loan he took out from the bank two days before he donated an identical amount to the Democratic presidential nomination campaign of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey.

Court papers filed here in Bexar County, Texas, Dec. 21 show the loan was collateralized by 10,000 shares of stock in Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., the firm run by leading Humphrey money manager Dwayne O. Andreas.

The bank won't say in whose name the stock is registered.

The bank handled Humphrey's campaign deposits. The campaign treasurer was Paul Thatcher, who works with Andreas in Minneapolis.

Last fall, another campaign worker, David Marks of Los Angeles, had said Thatcher was "importantly involved" in

discussions which led to Marks going to Duncan's home at Bryan, Tex., to pick up the \$200,000 campaign contribution. He got the check June 2, two days after the bank made the \$200,000 loan.

Duncan also gave Humphrey another \$100,000 earlier and was his biggest listed contributor.

In August, Duncan gave President Nixon's campaign \$305,000 in the form of a note which was discounted to another Washington bank by the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Duncan's was Mr. Nixon's third-largest listed contributor.

At the time of the Humphrey donation, Duncan was losing at foreclosure auction a parcel of property in Austin, Tex., on which he had obtained mortgages totaling \$2.6 million.

At the time he donated to Mr. Nixon, Duncan was being sued for \$2.27 million in a suit arising from that land foreclosure. Jury trial in that case is scheduled for next July. The transaction is closely linked to the collapse of the Sharpstown State Bank and National Bankers Life Insurance Co., a ma-

for 1971 Texas financial scandal.

One week before the National Bank of Washington filed its suit, an Evansville, Ind., man sued Duncan in Bexar county for \$500,000 as an outgrowth of a business deal in which he said Duncan didn't pay off.

Another Indiana interest is suing Duncan for \$150,000 at federal court in Houston.

Since the Associated Press began investigating Duncan last fall, he had refused to respond to written or telephoned inquiries.

(WILL WILSON)