

Weicker Says He Reported

By Morton Mintz

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Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) yesterday acknowledged that he received substantial secret White House funding for his 1970 senatorial campaign, but said that he fully reported the receipts to state officials in Hartford.

Weicker, in an interview, vehemently denied a charge that he did not fully report in Connecticut a cashier's check for \$35,000 paid into the "D.C. Committee for Weicker" from "The Public Institute," the name of a dummy organization used by President Nixon's personal lawyer, Herbert W. Kalmbach.

The Washington Star-

News attributed the charge to unidentified "Nixon reelection sources."

Weicker told a reporter that he had a campaign checkbook showing that the \$35,000 check was deposited in the account of the District of Columbia unit on Oct. 16, 1970. On the same day, seven checks for \$5,000 each were drawn on the Washington committee account and sent to Hartford, where they were reported, the senator said.

All told, Weicker said, the committee received \$79,601 anonymously. Under the campaign financing law in effect until April 7, 1972, a committee such as Weicker's was not required to disclose its income and expenditures.

Such committees were set up by the hundreds by Democratic as well as Republican candidates for all federal offices, not only in the District of Columbia, but also in certain states, such as Illinois, that had no disclosure laws of their own.

The White House contribution to Weicker was one dozens made to favored candidates in the 1970 races through a funding operation in the basement of a townhouse at 1310 19th St. NW. The operation was conducted by Jack A. Gleason, who was detached for the purpose from the staff of then White House aide Harry Dent.

The existence of the townhouse operation was re-

ported in 1970 by Jack W. Germond of the Gannett News Service and Jules J. Witcover, then of The Los Angeles Times.

Witcover, in a story published in The Washington Post on Nov. 27, 1970, said that Gleason "funnelled millions of dollars" into the campaigns of favored candidates. These included, as reported at the time by The Washington Post and others, now Sen. William Brock (R-Tenn.) and such unsuccessful Senate candidates as Rep. Thomas Kleppe (R-N.D.) and Rep. Richard Roudebush (R-Ind.).

Gleason, a former aide to Nixon fundraiser Maurice H. Stans, released a state-

Secret White House Gift

ment saying, "The scope of my participation in the 1970 election campaign was restricted to the distribution of campaign funds for various Republican candidates, on the instruction of other individuals.

"My duties, therefore, did not include any determination as to the sources of funding, nor as to its ultimate recipients," Gleason said.

Yesterday's Washington Star-News said that Kalmbach, then the President's lawyer, fed \$1.5 million in cashier's checks into the 1970 GOP Senate campaigns through the non-existent "Public Institute." Kalmbach and his lawyer, James

H. O'Connor of Phoenix, did not return a reporter's phone calls.

The story disclosed that \$35,000 of the money went into the campaign of Weicker, now a member of the Senate select Watergate committee, and other candidates picked by then White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman.

According to The Star-News, cashier's checks written to "The Public Institute" were sent to Gleason, then drew checks of his own for the candidates Haldeman designated.

In addition to the \$1.5 million listed to Kalmbach, an approximately equal sum

was sent to the designated candidates by several of Mr. Nixon's large contributors who worked through the townhouse operation.

As reported in 1970, these donors include W. Clement Stone, the Chicago insurance tycoon, and Thomas A. Pappas of Boston, who has substantial business interests in Greece.

The recipients of gifts from some of Mr. Nixon's supporters include Weicker, Sen. J. Glenn Beall Jr. (R-Md.) and the present Republican National Chairman, George Bush, who ran for a Senate seat in Texas.

The Star-News said that Lawrence Higby, an aide to Haldeman, instructed Kalm-

bach to give \$400,000, in three installments, to a middleman he had never met for possible use by an opponent of Alabama's George C. Wallace in the spring of 1970.

The article said that Kalmbach was said to have told persons variously identified as "sources close to the Senate proceedings" and "Senate investigators" that he did not know whether the money actually went to Albert Brewer, who tried to upset Wallace in the Alabama gubernatorial primary three years ago.

There has been no indication of where Kalmbach raised the \$1.5 million for the 1970 townhouse operation.