

Tycoon Puts Gifts to GOP At \$7 Million

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President Nixon's major political contributor, Chicago insurance tycoon W. Clement Stone, said yesterday that he has given almost \$7 million to Republican causes in the last five years.

Stone previously had disclosed giving more than \$2 million to each of Mr. Nixon's last two presidential campaigns. But now he has told the Chicago Sun-Times that he gave \$2.8 million in 1968 and more than \$2 million in 1971 and 1972.

"I was convinced that through him I could make a meaningful contribution to the world," said Stone, author of the book "Success Through a Positive Mental Attitude."

Stone, founder and head of Combined Insurance Company of America, said that in 1970 he contributed \$810,659 to U.S. Senate and other candidates.

In Illinois, he said, he has made loans to the Republican state central committee of \$1.2 million and has given it or loaned it another "quarter of a million dollars." The unpaid loan balance is \$709,000, he said.

In a related election financing development, top executives of three California corporations said that each company's officials were asked to contribute \$100,000 to President Nixon's re-election drive before the current disclosure law took effect on April 7, 1972.

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The firms were Litton Industries and Lockheed Aircraft, both major defense contractors, and Union Oil. All said that no corporate funds were given.

As late as three days before President Nixon assumed responsibility for the Watergate scandals, Stone was re-affirming his faith that Mr. Nixon will do "the right thing" because he has "PMA"—Positive Mental Attitude. Now, however, Stone has modified his stance somewhat.

Stone met Mr. Nixon in 1964, when the President was national chairman of the Boys Clubs of America. Mr. Nixon has a "magnificent obsession" to try to make the world "a better place," Stone has said.

Replying to a newsman's questions on April 27, Stone said that Mr. Nixon, "like Abraham Lincoln," will "stand with anyone that stands right; stand with him while he is right and part from him when he does wrong."

Stone also said that any persons found "guilty of wrongdoing" in Watergate will "receive their penalties" because "the President believes in law and order."

He also said that "the President has the confidence of the people," that "the public will be inspired by his decisions," and that "in 1976, Watergate will be dead."

Yesterday, however, Stone said he plans to initiate an inquiry into whether any of the \$4.8 million he gave for Mr. Nixon's campaigns went toward Watergate. The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President did not reply to a reporter's question on that point.

If Mr. Nixon had needed more money for his campaigns, Stone would have provided it, he told the Associated Press.

Although the President made "some mistakes of judgment" about some of his aides, Mr. Nixon is "a man of integrity" in whom he has not lost confidence, Stone said.

Some aides Mr. Nixon trusted "deceived him" by withholding information on the Watergate scandal, Stone said without naming

anyone. He did exclude former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Stone said he has not communicated with Mr. Nixon about Watergate but feels that in time he will tell "the other side in a way that will inspire us all."

One of the California corporate executives, Charles Thornton, board chairman of Litton, said that Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the finance committee, requested an aggregate \$100,000 contribution in February or March of 1972. At the time, the company was hav-



W. CLEMENT STONE
... second thoughts

ing problems with a huge shipbuilding contract for the Navy at its yard in Pascagoula, Miss.

Thornton said that he interrupted Stans to say he would not ask his executives to make personal contributions in view of financial and congressional difficulties facing Litton at the time, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Thornton said, however, that contributions made by himself, Roy L. Ash, then president of Litton but now director of the Office of Management and Budget, and other executives, might have brought the total of gifts from Litton officials into the \$10,000 range.

Until now, Ash has declined to specify how much he gave. Yesterday, however, an OMB spokesman told The Washington Post that Ash gave \$12,000 in 1972 and less than \$25,000 in

1968.

Leonard Firestone, Stans' top fund-raiser in California, set the \$100,000 quota for Lockheed, which was rescued from grave financial troubles in 1971 by legislation guaranteeing a \$250 million loan. Mr. Nixon fought hard for the law.

The company's chairman, Daniel Haughton, said through spokesman that Firestone told of an insistence by Stans on setting high fund-raising quotas "on the grounds that no one was ever offended by being asked to give a lot of money."

Fred G. Hartley, president of Union Oil, said that he rejected a request for \$100,000 made either by Stans or by Firestone when both men called on him on Feb. 17, 1972.

Two weeks before the Nixon landslide victory in the November election, Hartley said he was solicited again on the grounds that the finance committee was short of cash "to cover the costs of the last weeks of television broadcasts."

Hartley said he donated \$3,000 in personal funds, but reportedly now feels he was misled because the Nixon campaign ended with a multimillion-dollar surplus. He asked for but was denied a refund, the Los Angeles Times said.

In New York City, John T. Connor, chairman of Allied Chemical said he declined a request by Stans for \$50,000 from company executives. Connor personally gave \$2,225, he said.