

# Stone in Denial of Cox Probe

CHICAGO — (AP) — W. Clement Stone yesterday denied a report that he had asked special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox to trace the uses of his multi-million-dollar contributions to President Nixon's election campaigns.

Stone, a millionaire Chicago insurance executive and philanthropist, revealed Friday that he had given nearly \$7 million in loans and contributions to Republican campaigns since 1968.

Almost \$5 million of that total was given in support of Nixon's 1968 and 1972 presidential races. Responding to a story in Saturday's editions of the Chicago Sun-Times that he had asked Cox to trace the money, Stone said in a statement:

"I have repeatedly stated that my contributions have definitely not been involved in Watergate because I know exactly to which committees the checks were paid. But recently it was suggested by reporters that there could be a possibility some of the money might have been misused.

"... Because there is a possibility, even though improbable, I said I would conduct my own inquiries into how the money was spent.

"I did not imply at any time that I would seek the aid of the Watergate prosecutor to investigate the use of my contributions. I am, of course, willing to cooperate in every possible way."

Stone also released a list of 42 candidates in 29 states whom he supported in gubernatorial, senate and congressional races in 1970.

Amounts ranged from a \$100 gift to the successful reelection campaign of Rep. John B. Anderson (R-Ill.) to a \$500,000 loan to the campaign of the late Sen. Ralph Tyler Smith, (R-Ill.), who lost to Adlai E. Stevenson III.