

Nixon Drive Again Denies Violation in Hiding Gift

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The Nixon re-election committee contended again in court papers filed yesterday that it did not violate campaign disclosure laws by concealing a \$200,000 cash contribution from financier Robert L. Vesco.

In addition to its previous claims that the funds were pledged to the campaign prior to the April 7 effective date of a new campaign financing law and therefore were legal, the committee added another defense—that it was acting on the “good faith reliance of its counsel,” convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy.

The court papers were filed yesterday by Kenneth W. Parkinson, a lawyer for the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, at the request of U.S. District Judge George L. Hart, before whom the committee pleaded not guilty two weeks ago. The government has two weeks to file an answer to yesterday’s motion for a not-guilty verdict.

The maximum penalty on the three-count criminal information charging the committee with violating the disclosure law is \$3,000.

The charges say the finance committee acted through former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans and its treasurer, Hugh P.

Sloan Jr., in concealing the Vesco contribution, but neither man was named as a defendant.

The Vesco donation, consisting of 2,000 \$100 bills, resulted in the indictments in New York earlier this month of Stans and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

In the New York indictments, Mitchell and Stans were charged with obtaining the \$200,000 contribution from Vesco in return for promises that they would arrange meetings for the financier and his lawyers with officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which was investigating Vesco.