

# Political Use Of CIA Fund By Firm Told

By Brooks Jackson  
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Ashland Oil, Inc., used some of the money it got from the Central Intelligence Agency for admittedly illegal domestic political donations, according to two authoritative sources.

An Ashland spokesman insisted that the CIA had not earmarked the money for political use, but the spokesman admitted that the company may have unintentionally been misleading when it said earlier that the CIA money was "unrelated" to the company's political gifts.

The spokesman conceded that about \$50,000, which Ashland got from the CIA in cash in 1968, 1969 and 1971, was mingled with a secret cash fund used by top Ashland officials to make illegal donations. Also put into the fund were hundreds of thousands of dollars secretly siphoned off from Ashland's own overseas operations.

Two sources familiar with the various federal investigations into Ashland's affairs said some or all of the cash given by the CIA was passed on to U.S. political campaigns. Ashland spokesmen would not deny this, but they pointed out that when the fund was eliminated in 1973, it still had more cash in it than the sum of the CIA's cash payments.

The fund was used to make more than \$700,000 in donations to Richard M. Nixon, Hubert H. Humphrey, the Democratic Party and others including many still not identified publicly.

The CIA paid Ashland \$50,468 in cash and another \$48,500 in checks, allegedly to reimburse the company for the salary of a CIA agent carried on Ashland's payroll.

The checks were deposited in a company bank account and apparently did not pass into the political fund, according to a report Ashland filed this week with the Securities and Exchange Commission.