

Grain Magnates Filled Nixon Coffers

By JAMES R. POLK

© 1972, Washington Star-News

WASHINGTON — Top officials of a Midwest grain firm gave \$12,000 to President Nixon's re-election campaign at the same time the company faced a congressional probe of the Russian-American wheat deal.

The contributions by the five executives of Cargill Inc., of Minneapolis, Minn., were made the day before a House subcommittee hearing, and were uncovered today in campaign filings by the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President.

Cargill's board chairman, Erwin E. Kelm, said it was only happenstance that the donations coincided with the hearings. He denied any impropriety.

Cargill was the second-largest seller among six American exporters in the \$1 billion grain deal this summer. The Russian sales were underwritten by Department of Agriculture subsidies as high as 47 cents a bushel.

—**Minneapolis soybean king** Dwayne O. Andreas is listed for a new \$23,967 contribution on public records. (A secret \$25,000 donation by Andreas last April was traced to the Miami bank account of a suspect in the Watergate bugging affair).

—**New York investment broker** John L. Loeb, under a Justice Department investigation of his contributions for Democratic loser Hubert H. Humphrey, has switched to Nixon with at least \$24,000 in checks, plus another \$12,500 from family members. The Justice probe had been prompted by \$48,000 in Humphrey donations sent using the names of eight employees in apparent violation of federal law.

—**ADEPT**, the political arm of Mid-America Dairymen Inc., in Springfield, Mo., fed a fresh \$25,000 through various Democrats for Nixon committees. ADEPT was one of three dairy funds which funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars through dummy Nixon groups last year after an abrupt government boost in

Before Wheat-Sale Probe

milk-price supports. Mid-America letters in a court case link the price rise to Nixon contributions.

—**Seatrain Lines Inc.**, which has become one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Nixon administration's ship-building subsidies, also surfaced among Democrats for Nixon. The officials for Seatrain and allied companies gave \$30,000 in one day for Nixon.

Charges that a Department of Agriculture official leaked advance information to the six firms letting them know the subsidy policy was about to be changed led to last month's hearings by the House Grains Subcommittee.

The Nixon campaign donations were dated Sept. 18, the day before a Cargill vice president—not listed in the filings—was called to testify. He denied the firm had any inside information or made any outsized profits on the sale.

The Nixon checks included \$3,000 each from Kelm and vice president James R. Cargill, plus \$2,000 each from president H. Robert Diercks and vice presidents Robert J. Harrigan and Donald C. Levin.

Reached by telephone in Minneapolis, Kelm said: "We were all Republicans, and we were going to give. It just happened at the same time. It had no connection with the hearings. It has no significance at all."

The Cargill checks were among more than \$13 million raised by Nixon in the last 1½ months. Latest filings under the campaign disclosure law show Nixon running ahead of Democratic nominee George S. McGovern by 3-to-2 in both contributions and spending during that time.

But the Nixon coffers appear to be bulging with as many curiosities and controversies as cash:

—**Nixon forces** picked up \$22,000 this month from a political fund for officials and employees of the Lockheed Air-

craft Corp., bailed out from the threat of bankruptcy by a government-guaranteed loan last year.

—**Victor H. Frenkil**, the Baltimore contractor involved in a 1970 federal grand jury investigation of favors for House Majority Leader Hale Boggs and Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., in connection with a \$5-million government claim, is listed last month for a \$2,500 Nixon donation.

—**Robert L. Vesco**, the Boonton, N.J., financier who faced a Securities and Exchange Commission probe after his take-over of the scandal-shadowed overseas investment empire of Bernard Cornfeld, gave at least \$20,000 to Nixon recently. Vesco, who now has resigned from the overseas fund and his own international controls corp., was also a big 1968 Nixon donor.

—**Several corporations** holding government contracts or under federal regulation showed up through political funds or executives' individual checks for large donations. Major givers included Hughes Aircraft, Union Carbide, R. J. Reynolds, drug maker Eli Lilly & Co. and First National City Bank of New York City.

The largest new donors on Nixon's autumn records are John L. Louis Jr. of Combined Communications Corp. in Phoenix, Ariz., at \$88,340 so far, and Samuel Schulman of National General Corp., a Los Angeles entertainment and publishing giant, at \$86,574.

With two-thirds of the Nixon state filings still to come, both donors' totals appear likely to reach a quarter-million dollars. Counting earlier checks, Louis has already given

\$126,000 this year.

Schulman is part owner of the San Diego Chargers and the Seattle Supersonics basketball franchise.

Louis, as an official of the Atlanta Braves, was once ordered by Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn to sever his holdings in Parvin-Dohrmann Co., owner of three Las Vegas casinos.

Jack J. Dreyfus Jr., investment broker with Dreyfus & Co. in New York, is also high on the Nixon rolls with \$75,000 so far; his total is likely to double when records are complete. Dreyfus was one of the largest single supporters of antiwar candidate Eugene J. McCarthy in 1968 before switching to Nixon.

But Republicans also showed a belief in self-help. Nixon's running mate, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, chipped in \$1,000 of his personal money.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers has given \$5,000. Ambassador Joseph S. Farland in Iran topped his boss with \$12,000. Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg in Britain gave \$4,000.