

Did Nixon Gifts Stir Milk Supports Hike?

By Grace Bassett

Examiner Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Secret contributions of \$232,500 from dairymen to President Nixon's campaign fueled speculation today that the gifts influenced the Administration to raise milk price supports.

Other donors who have put Nixon in their debt:

- Insurance tycoon W. Clement Stone and his wife, of Chicago, who gave \$1 million.

- Ten families of great wealth, mostly inherited, who together contributed \$3.3 million.

- Family friend Elmer Bobst whose contribution of \$25,000 has been linked by George McGovern to million dollar profits for Bobst's drug firm, Warner Lambert. Business picked up after Attorney General Richard Kleindienst approved a merger opposed by lawyers lower down in the Justice Department.

- E. Howard Hunt, a Watergate break-in suspect, who gave \$1000.

The confidential milk in-

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W. CLEMENT STONE
Top fatcat

W. Clement Stone, Chicago, chairman of Combined Insurance Co. of America, \$1 million.

Richard Mellon Scaife, Pittsburgh, an heir to the Mellon banking fortune, \$800,000.

Arthur K. Watson, New Canaan, Conn., ambassador to France, \$300,000.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Mulcahy, New York, retired industrialist, \$255,000.

Kent Smith and Thelma G. Smith, Gates Mill, Ohio, \$244,000. He is retired chairman of Lubrizol Corp.

Trust for Agricultural Political Education, San Antonio, Texas, a milk-producers' group, \$187,500. Three other dairy groups contributed another \$45,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond R. Guest,

King George, Va., Johnson administration ambassador to Ireland and former cattleman, \$170,000.

Jules Stein, Los Angeles, chairman of MCA, Inc., \$117,822.

John M. Olin, New York, honorary chairman of Olin Corp., \$100,000.

Leonard K. Firestone, Los Angeles, Firestone rubber executive and chairman of the California Nixon fund-raising committee, \$100,000.

Elisha Walker Jr., New York, heir to a brokerage and importing fortune, \$100,000.

Dewitt Wallace and Lila Acheson Wallace, Mt. Kisco, N.Y., he is publisher of Reader's Digest, \$100,000.

John Humes, New York, ambassador to Austria, \$100,000.

Jean W. Payson, owner of the New York Mets baseball team, \$80,000.

Thomas Pappas, Boston, chairman, Esso Pappas Oil refinery in Greece, \$70,572.

Taft Schreiber, vice president of MCA, Inc., and a Nixon fund-raiser, \$66,102.

Lillian B. Phipps, New York, widow of investment banker Ogden Phipps, \$51,000.

J. Paul Getty, Los Angeles, chairman of Getty Oil Co. and reputed to be the world's richest man, \$50,000.

Valere B. Potter, Nashville, Tenn., housewife, \$50,000. (While Mrs. Potter identified herself as a housewife, her husband, Justin Potter, is a Nashville coal magnate with interests in Tennessee and Kentucky.)

John N. Irwin II, Washington, D.C., deputy secretary of state, \$50,000.

David K. Wilson and Anne P. Wilson, Nashville, Tenn., he is president of Cherokee Equity Corp. and a Nixon fund-raiser, \$50,000.

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The confidential checks, written between Jan. 1, 1971, and March 9, 1972, were disclosed under court order last night by the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

They were among 283 cash gifts — \$4,771,531.36 in all — shoveled into a "secret" campaign fund for Nixon before a new law required disclosure.

Disclosed last night were those who gave \$1000 or more during the period.

Another list of donors who gave from \$100 to \$999 during the period is to be disclosed Sunday.

Still secret are the names of contributors between March 10 and April 7, the day the new law went into effect. The March 10 cutoff marked the final reporting date under the old Corrupt Practices Act.

Republican fund-raisers pulled in millions of dollars just before the April 7 deadline so the contributors could avoid public identification.

George McGovern, the Democratic presidential candidate, began disclosing contributions during the primary elections and made a major issue of Nixon's refusal to do the same.

"There seems to be an interesting flow of events from the dairy gifts," commented John Gardner, chief of Common Cause, the "citizens' lobby" that sued to open all campaign contribution records before and after the disclosure law.

"After the election, we hope to do a complete analysis of what comes from giving."

Raises Supports

Nixon decided to raise milk price supports March 25, 1971, after an Administration announcement two weeks earlier that he would not.

The campaign contributions from milkmen came from three political fund raising committees — AD-EPT, for Mid-America Dairy-men, Inc., Springfield, Mo.;

TAPE, for the Associated Milk Producers, Inc., San Antonio, Tex.; and SPACE, Agricultural Community Education of Louisville, Ky. and Richmond, Va.

Contribution

Stone, chairman of Combined Insurance Co. of America, had said publicly he gave more than \$500,000 to the Nixon campaign.

He was the largest known Nixon donor in 1968, giving \$500,000 and apparently will hold that rank this year. He has given another \$27,500 in recorded contributions since April 7.

In all, there were 21 gifts of \$50,000 or more. Some \$3.3 million was given by 10 families.

Gardner put 40 researchers to work all night at the Common Cause headquarters here identifying donors. The names were checked for previous contributions and affiliations with industries, associations and unions.

Today, Common Cause expects to issue a preliminary analysis.

The full list of donors of \$50,000 or more, including some husbands and wives shown as a unit though listed separately by the Nixon committee: