

Lasky Link to Nixon Group

Washington

On White House orders, the Committee to Re-elect the President made a \$20,000 cash payment to Victor Lasky, a conservative author who is writing a book called "The Nison Years," a n informed source told the Los Angeles Times.

The orders came after Lasky told White House officials he needed money because he had had a problem with a firm which had contracted to publish the book, the source said.

Lasky, in a telephone interview from his apartment at the Watergate complex here, confirmed that he received the payment.

At first Lasky said, "But it wasn't for writing the book, it was for speech writing. I'm a Republican and a free-lance writer and I write for Republicans."

PAYMENT

Asked if he had not requested the payment because of a problem with his publisher, he said, "oh, I don't know, it gets a little confusing. The truth is I did have some problems with the publisher. That might

have had something to do with the payment."

Lasky said the payment also was for writing campaign speeches, however. He said he had written speeches for Martha Mitchell when she was attached to the Re-election Committee.

Asked how many speeches he had written, he said, "oh, Christ, I don't know. About a half-dozen. I do so much writing I don't know."

'CAPER'

"I did other things, too, but I'm not going to tell you. But it had nothing to do with the Watergate caper, just leave it there. I know what you're trying to do. The only thing i have to do with Watergate is I live there."

Commenting for the Re-election Committee, Devan L. Shumway, public affairs director, said: "Yes, the committee did pay Mr. Lasky \$20,000 in cash. It's my understanding it was for writing services. He's a professional writer and wrote some speeches and other materials."

Asked about the case, White House deputy press secretary Gerald Warren said he did not know if the

White house "ordered, directed or recommended" that the committee hire Lasky, "but he did write for the committee and I'm certain members of the White House staff would have recommended him because he is a very reputable writer."

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