

Nixon's Financial Units Request Burger to Delay Trial Opening

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (AP)—President Nixon's campaign-finance apparatus asked Chief Justice Warren E. Burger today to put off trial of a suit to force disclosure of campaign contributions made before Federal regulations were tightened this spring.

The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President and other campaign finance committees asked Justice Burger to halt the proceedings until the Court decides whether, as the Republicans maintain, the case should go before a three-judge Federal panel.

The committee members are named as defendants in a suit brought by Common Cause, a citizens' lobby, which is scheduled to go to trial tomorrow. It seeks revelation of contributions made before April 7.

The suit was brought under the old Federal Corrupt Practices Act, which was replaced

in April by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

"It has been practically stipulated that the reporting requirements of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act have not been enforced for almost several decades," argued the Republicans.

The suit, continued the stay application, "is the first modern attempt to resurrect this cumbersome and outdated statute. Indeed, plaintiffs have taken the prosecutor's role on themselves in this case."

United States District Court Judge Joseph C. Waddy denied the request for a three-judge court and the United States Appeals Court in Washington refused to order it.

The committees said they would be forced into court tomorrow without a chance to argue the constitutionality of the old act before a three-judge court.