

Sources Must Be Disclosed

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — President Nixon's campaign finance committee agreed in federal court today to disclose the source of funds contributed to the campaign before last March 10.

The consent decree, agreed to by attorneys in the case and signed by U.S. District Court Judge Joseph C. Waddy, directs the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President to disclose the contributors of previously unreported campaign contributions up to March 10.

It does not cover still unreported contributions given between March 10 and April 7, when the new campaign contribution reporting law went into effect.

Make Public

The order requires the Republicans to make public by 9 p.m. tomorrow the names of all who contributed more than \$1000 prior to March 9 and by noon Sunday the names of all who gave more than \$100.

The consent decree was issued in a suit brought by Common Cause, the self-styled citizen's lobby, which is seeking disclosure of all Nixon campaign contributions.

A spokesman for Common Cause said if the Republicans had refused to disclose the names of contributors and the lawsuit had been fought out, Maurice Stans, Nixon's finance chairman, would have been compelled to testify, and his appearance on the witness stand would have led to questions about the financing of the Watergate episode.

Contributions

The spokesman said the order means that about \$6 million in previously undisclosed funds will be publicly accounted for. The spokesman said Common Cause

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thinks another \$10 million is covered by the March 10-April 7 period.

Litigation aimed at forcing disclosure of the source of the rest of the money will continue, but sources involved in the suit said it is not likely to come to trial before next Tuesday's presidential election.

Judge Waddy's decree, agreed to by lawyers in the case in advance, does not require disclosure of expenditures, but only contributions.

The decree, however, does require the committees financing the Nixon campaign to turn over records on all contributions and expenditures prior to April 7 to the court pending outcome of the trial.

The new law specifically requires the sources of all contributions over \$100, but Common Cause had contended that the same requirement, although never enforced, was contained in the previous campaign finance statute, the 1925 Corrupt Practices Act.

The Nixon committee had argued that the 1925 law did not require disclosure and that disclosure requirements were unconstitutional.

"For months, representatives of the Committees to Re-elect the President have asserted they had no legal obligation to tell the American public where the President's money came from that had been contributed before April 7."

John Gardner, chairman of Common Cause, said he thought the reason the Nixon committee lawyers had agreed to the disclosures, is that "they did not want to go to trial."