

Nader Suit Over Campaign Aides

Washington

Ralph Nader filed suit in U.S. District Court yesterday seeking to force White House aides to return to the Treasury thousands of dollars in government salaries they earned while "devoting substantially all of their time" to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

The suit asked that Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz be ordered to collect the money from all such White House aides, but it specifically named Charles W. Colson, a White House special counsel; Herbert Klein, the President's communications director, and Robert Finch, former Health, Education and Welfare Secretary and now a special White House assistant.

Nader said federal law requires that government officials be paid only for "the official business" authorized by their jobs.

Nader left it up to the court to determine the amount of the disputed salaries, but he

estimated that "the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$10,000."

Colson, Finch and Klein were receiving government salaries "while they were devoting substantially all of their time to the re-election campaign of President Nixon," the consumer advocate said in the suit, filed jointly with Public Citizen, a public interest group formed by Nader last year.

"What we have here is simply a case of a political raid on the U.S. Treasury," Nader said. "It is just as though the Treasurer of the United States wrote checks and provided facilities to the Committee to Re-Elect the President for the amount of these salaries."

Suggesting that both Democratic and Republican voters should support the suit, Nader said: "Every taxpayer, regardless of his or her political affiliation, should deplore any attempts to have the federal government unlawfully finance a candidate for any office."

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From article by Don Bacon, SF Examiner & Chronicle 29 Oct 72, this file: "The Nixon re-election formula" included "[mobilizing] the entire Administration to assist in the campaign - no exceptions." After listing expenses of the campaign committee Bacon says, "This does not, of course, include the value of the government-paid manpower "