
\$8000 Fine for Nixon Committee

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A federal judge yesterday fined President Nixon's campaign finance committee \$8000—the maximum—for violating the new election spending law.

All eight charges involved Watergate defendant G. Gordon Liddy.

The fine imposed by U.S. District Judge George Hart was against the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, which pleaded nolo contendere (no contest) during a five-minute court proceeding.

U.S. Attorney Walter Barnes, representing the government, objected to the plea, declaring it was "contrary to our policy."

Hart replied that he had "never been able to see any difference between a plea of nolo contendere and guilty" and told Defense Attorney Kenneth Parkinson: "there may be a face-saving difference, but it is very slight."

"However," he added, "the plea will be accepted and I will fine the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President \$1000 on each

count for a total of \$8000, which is the maximum."

The misdemeanor charges all involved failure of the committee to get receipts from Liddy for \$26,500 in campaign funds expended, and with failing to file proper reports on that money with the General Accounting Office as required by the campaign finance law that went into effect last April 7.

Liddy, who once was counsel to the Finance Committee, is on trial on charges of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping, all stemming from last June's break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters here at the Watergate Hotel.

A spokesman for Mr. Nixon's re-election committee, in explaining the no contest plea, said the committee could not have thrown any light on the alleged election law violations even if it had contested the charge. He said the committee had no idea what Liddy did with the \$26,500 and could not question him because of his status as a defendant in the bugging trial.

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