

New Watergate Developments

Court Given Records

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By Richard L. Lyons

Washington Post Staff Writer

Three more cartons of Republican campaign finance records were delivered to U.S. District Court here yesterday as Common Cause filed a motion asking that President Nixon's chief fundraiser, Maurice H. Stans, be ordered to deliver all records within 72 hours or be held in contempt of court.

As lawyers for the citizens lobby were filing the motion, Daniel Webster Coon, a lawyer for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, of which Stans is chairman, delivered the documents to the clerk's office.

Coon told a reporter he hadn't known Common Cause was filing the motion. He said he received a telephone call Saturday from Paul Barrick, treasurer of the finance committee, telling him that the three cartons of records had been found.

Coon said he was "surprised and shocked" because he thought all records had been delivered under a court order of last November. "I certainly pray to the good Lord all the records have been delivered now," he said.

Common Cause filed suit last fall to obtain records showing campaign contributions received and expenditures by the finance committee from Jan. 1, 1971 to April 7, 1972, when a new law requiring disclosure of such records took effect. Common Cause wanted to see the records in an effort to trace money that may have been used to finance the bugging of Democratic

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Party headquarters at the Watergate and other activities.

Coon told a reporter that when the court issued a consent order last November for production of all the records, he asked his client the finance committee for the records and delivered eight cartons to the court at that time. Common Cause said there were "enormous gaps" in the records and went by to court yesterday to ask for the rest.

Coon said he didn't know why the additional three cartons were not delivered last November, but said the records had been shipped around a good deal.

Kenneth J. Guido, associate general counsel for Common Cause, said of the discovery of new records that "somebody covered up the documents. Somebody had the responsibility to make the search for them last November."

Mitchell Rogovin, the lawyer who filed the Common Cause petition, said he doubted that the three cartons contained all the missing records. "They should be eight cartons at least," he said. "Do you think the records are worth millions of dollars worth of payments?"

"I took something as heady as a motion to hold all these guys in contempt to flush out all these records," Rogovin told the Associated Press. "We'll leave it to the court to decide whether Stans and the rest should be sanctioned for playing fast and loose with the records." The motion covered not only Stans, Mr. Nixon's former Secretary of Commerce, but other members of the committee and their lawyers.

John W. Gardner, chairman of Common Cause, said yesterday of the motion his organization filed yesterday: "We must have these documents in order to lay bare the whole grimy story of campaign contributions. The Watergate is not primarily a story of political espionage nor even of White House intrigue. It is a particularly malodorous chapter in the annals of campaign financing."

"The money paid to the Watergate conspirators before the break-in—and the money passed to them later—was money from campaign gifts. It was not found in a new patch. It was money presumably given to ensure Mr. Nixon's re-election."