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U.S. Jury in Texas Questions Contributor to Nixon Campaign

HOUSTON, May 18 (UPI)—A Federal grand jury questioned an oil company executive and examined company records today in its investigation of a \$100,000 Nixon campaign contribution linked to the Watergate case.

Arthur M. Urech, vice president and treasurer of the Gulf Resources and Chemical Corporation, appeared before the panel with his lawyer.

Robert H. Allen, president of the concern and chairman of the Texas Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, contributed the \$100,000 anonymously last year, shortly before a Federal deadline on disclosures of political donations. At least part of the money was used to pay for the burglary of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate building.

The money was routed through Mexico in what has been called a "laundering" operation, then sent to the Nixon campaign. About \$89,000 was deposited in the Miami bank account of Bernard L. Barker, a convicted Watergate conspirator.

Gulf Resources has said that the concern did send \$100,000 to a Mexico City subsidiary, Compania de Azufre Veracruz.

The subsidiary paid a lawyer, Manuel Ogarrio Daguerre, who represents the concern, the exact amount for what it said was legal services.

Mr. Allen's lawyer, Richard Haynes, said that Mr. Allen borrowed the same amount from the lawyer and it was then contributed to Mr. Nixon's campaign. Mr. Allen's identity in the matter was disclosed in January and his contribution was returned at his request.

The grand jury asked for any records of company communications with 11 Watergate figures, including Barker and three other conspirators, C. Gordon Liddy, E. Howard Hunt and James W. McCord, and H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and John Dean 3d, former White House aides.

The grand jury examined Mr. Allen's personal bank records from Jan. 1, 1972, to May 14, 1973, and all company records of his salary payments.