

More Corporate Gifts Admitted

Washington

Several more corporation executives have acknowledged to special prosecutor Archibald Cox's office that they used corporate funds to contribute to President Nixon's campaign committee last year.

Cox staff declined yester-

day to identify the companies or the executives involved. Lawyers familiar with the cases said they involve some of the largest American corporations and contributions in the range of \$100,000 each.

It is illegal to make political contributions with corporate money. A new feder-



AP Wirephoto

A Last Laugh

al grand jury is to begin investigating the contributions next week.

Two major companies already have publicly admitted they used corporate money in making contributions to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President. They are the chairmen of Ashland Oil, Inc., and of American Airlines.

There is a double reason for the corporations to admit the sources of their gifts at this point. The grand jury meets next week and Cox has said that "early" acknowledgement by the corporations might be considered as "mitigating circumstances" in determining what charges are brought against them.

Second, a list of persons who gave money to the Finance Committee just before the new campaign law went into effect April 10 is to be made public late in Septem-

ber. Some of the contributors on that list are believed to be corporate executives who used company funds. If any of them want to take advantage of Cox' "mitigating

With four months of hearings behind them — and a month of vacation ahead of them — the members of the Senate Watergate committee took their coats off, poured a few drinks and held a surprise birthday

party Tuesday night for Senator Herman Talmadge of Georgia, a committee member. Senators Joseph Montoya of New Mexico, Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina and Edward Gurney of Florida (above) quickly loosened up.

circumstances" offer they would probably have to do so before the list is made public.

Thirty of the largest contributors on that list already

have been notified that contributions from corporate treasuries which were disguised as individual gifts may be investigated.

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