

Cox Receives More Admissions Of Corporate Donations to Nixon

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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's staff declined to identify the companies or the executives involved. Lawyers familiar with the cases said they involved some of the largest corporations and contributions in the range of \$100,000 each. It is illegal to make political contributions with corporate money. A new federal grand jury is scheduled 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.

It was learned yesterday that attorneys for several other large corporations have acknowledged similar contributions in the past few days. A couple of them

probably will make public announcement of their gifts.

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.

Secondly, 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 September. 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's "mitigating 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.

A suit by Common Cause, the citizens lobby, forced the scheduled publication

on Sept. 28 of the list, said to consist of 2,000 names of persons who contributed just before new reporting requirements went into effect on April 10, 1972.

Until recently, Cox has concentrated on inducing the corporate executives to acknowledge voluntarily their possibly illegal contributions. His staff now is more inclined to prepare for criminal prosecutions, one staff member said.

One lawyer in private practice said the latest group of companies to deal with Cox's office had made contributions of about \$100,000 last year.

"One hundred thousand—that's the standard," he said.

When American Airlines chairman George A. Spater publicly acknowledged arranging an illegal contribution, he said Herbert W. Kalmbach, once President Nixon's personal lawyer, had solicited it. Kalmbach told him that "we were among those from whom \$100,000 was expected," Spater said last month.

Spater had arranged for \$55,000 in illegal corporate contributions and Ashland Oil acknowledged giving \$100,000.