

Gulf, Goodyear Disclose Gifts To Nixon Fund

By William Chapman
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The Gulf Oil Corp. acknowledged yesterday that because of "intense" political pressure it contributed \$100,000 last year to President Nixon's campaign finance committee.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. also acknowledged that it had voluntarily donated \$40,000 to the committee.

B. R. Dorsey, chairman of Gulf's board, said the company contributed the money after representatives of the Finance Committee To Reelect the President made of the Finance Committee To Reelect the President made "persistent requests" to the company's Washington representative.

"This pressure was intense and at the time it was thought to be irresistible by our Washington representatives," Dorsey said in a statement responding to queries by The Washington Post.

"Nevertheless, the pressure should have been resisted whatever the consequences."

It is illegal for corporations to make political contributions. The money was returned by the Finance Committee to both companies at their requests.

Gulf and Goodyear were the third and fourth major corporations to acknowledge publicly that they contributed funds to the President's reelection campaign. Ashland Oil Co. gave \$100,000 in corporate funds and American Airlines gave \$55,000.

Both said the contributions had been solicited and American Airlines chairman George A. Spater named Herbert W. Kolmbach, then the President's personal lawyer, as the man who had asked for the money.

In returning Goodyear's contribution the committee acknowledged that Goodyear officials were not told that the gift constituted an illegal corporate contribution.

Gulf's executives refused to identify the "representatives" from the finance committee who solicited the money through its Washington representative, Claude C. Wild Jr. Wild could not be reached for elaboration yesterday.

Information on Gulf's contribution had been given earlier to the staff of Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox. "We have assured his office of our willingness to cooperate fully," Dorsey said.

Several other corporations reportedly have made similar admissions to Cox's staff

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but their names have not been revealed.

Cox has urged such companies to acknowledge the contributions. While asserting that there will be no "quid pro quo" in exchange for the voluntary admission, Cox said that early acknowledgments might be considered as "mitigating circumstances" in determining what charges are to be brought against those companies by his office. A new grand jury is to begin considering charges of illegal contributions next week.

A spokesman for Cox's office indicated yesterday that the offer of "mitigating circumstances" is limited. "If a corporation's officers disclose illegal corporate contributions only after our investigation focuses on that particular corporation one might question how voluntary that decision is," he said.

The Associated Press quoted California Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. as saying that millions of dollars in still-secret contributions to President Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign will be disclosed to California officials by Sept. 28.

Brown, a Democrat, said in Sacramento that Nixon Campaign officials agreed to the disclosures yesterday after a month of negotiations.

The report to be filed is to include secret contributions made to the reelection campaign before a new federal campaign disclosure law went into effect April 7, said Brown, a probable candidate for governor next year.

The Finance Committee to Reelect the President and other Nixon fund-raising organizations are scheduled to file similar reports in Washington the same day under an agreement with Common Cause, a citizens lobby. The list is expected to include the names of many corporate executives.

In his statement issued in Pittsburgh after a meeting of top executives yesterday, Dorsey said the Gulf contribution was unknown to the board of directors.

He said, "The company was not seeking any special favors and did not have any corporate activity under government scrutiny.

"There was enormous pressure in the political system and the fact that others apparently also yielded is evidence of this."

Dorsey said, "We are determined that no one in

Gulf shall ever engage in this kind of activity again and we have taken the necessary measures to see that they do not."