

WXPost AUG 18 1973

# Nixon Fund Returns

## \$100,000 Phillips Gift

BARTLESVILLE, Okla., Aug. 17 (AP)—Phillips Petroleum Co. announced today that its former board chairman contributed \$100,000 in corporate funds to President Nixon's re-election campaign to contribute to political campaigns.

Phillips said its former chief executive officer, W. W. Keeler, made the contribution without the permission of the company's directors. Keeler resigned as Phillips board chairman on Jan. 1 but is still a member of the board.

The Phillips spokesman said Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox has been notified of the contribution.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President said the donation from the corporation had been returned earlier today by a check made out in the amount of \$100,000 to Phillips Petroleum Co.

The spokesman said the money was returned "because we don't accept illegal contributions."

He said the committee had not been informed originally that the contribution came from a corporate source. "and, in fact, we were given to understand the contribution came from individuals in Oklahoma."

The Phillips spokesman, George Durham, issued a three-paragraph statement and refused to answer questions about the contribution.

"Contributions were made without approval or knowledge of the board of directors," he said. "At its meeting on Aug. 13 the board was informed of the contributions," which were made before April 7, 1972, when a new campaign spending reporting law took effect.

Keeler has been with Phillips for more than 40 years.