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Nixon Drive May Have Got 15 Illegal Corporate Gifts

By MICHAEL C. JENSEN

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 — Government investigators now believe that as many as 15 or 20 of the names on a White House master list of campaign contributors may represent illegal cash donations from corporations, according to sources close to the investigation. The sources said these donations totaled up to \$1.5-million.

Six companies on the list have publicly admitted making \$425,000 in illegal contributions, and today Braniff Airways, Inc., admitted, after being queried, that it had contributed \$40,000 in corporate funds to the Nixon re-election campaign.

Three other companies have made similar disclosures to the office of the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, although not to the public, the sources said.

Mr. Cox's office declined to comment on the report, nor would it acknowledge or identify the additional companies. But it confirmed that its investigation of corporate contributions was accelerating.

The Government has promised to consider voluntary disclosure of such contributions as a "mitigating circumstance" in deciding whether to prosecute illegal contributions as mis-

demeanors or felonies, and whether to prosecute individual corporate officers or only the corporation itself.

Meanwhile, the General Accounting Office published today a computerized compilation of the names of 70,000 people who contributed to the 1972 campaign. The campaign disclosure report was the most complete ever published in this country, but the G.A.O. conceded that it still contained some errors and incomplete data. [Details, Page 14.]

Government investigators on Mr. Cox's staff and on the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities are poring over the 2,000 names on the White House master list, which accounts for about \$19.6-million in contributions. The list was turned over last June to Common Cause, the citizens' lobby, and subsequently was obtained by investigators.

The list is coded, and investigators have been told that a code number "73" appearing in the right-hand margin refers to cash donations. Most of those

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