

Airline Fined for Campaign Gift

Washington

Braniff Airways and its board chairman pleaded guilty yesterday to making an illegal \$40,000 cash contribution to President Nixon's 1972 campaign—the fourth corporation to admit such a violation of federal law.

U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. fined the airline \$5000 — the maximum penalty provided by law — and Braniff board chairman Harding L. Lawrence \$1000 at a brief court hearing.

Federal law prohibits national banks, corporations and labor unions from contributing directly to political organizations or candidates.

Before he was fired as special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox brought similar criminal charges against American Airlines, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. and Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. All three pleaded guilty.

PLEAS

Lawrence and Braniff waived indictments, each pleading guilty to a one count criminal information. It charged that the company contributed \$40,000 in cash

to the Finance Committee To Re-elect the President on April 6, 1972, the day before a new federal campaign finance law went into effect requiring full disclosure of all contributors.

Lawrence was charged with the federal misdemeanor because he "consented to the contribution."

Lawrence received the maximum fine, but he could also have been imprisoned for as much as one year.

JAWORSKI

The federal criminal charges were the first filed by Leon Jaworski since he became special Watergate prosecutor November 1 replacing Cox. The prosecutors indicated more charges may be filed against other firms today.

Braniff was one of seven

corporations that last summer voluntarily admitted that they had made illegal contributions from corporate funds to the Nixon campaign.

Cox said when first charges were brought October 17 that the "volunteers" would be treated with more leniency than those who did not come forward on their own or tried to hide evidence or tried to hide evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

United Press