

WXPost NOV 24 1973

Innocent Plea Made By Andreas

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Special to The Washington Post

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 23

—Dwayne O. Andreas, a long-time fund-raiser for and contributor to the campaigns of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), today pleaded innocent in absentia to federal charges that he consented to \$100,000 in contributions from corporate funds to Humphrey's 1968 presidential campaign.

Joe A. Walters, Andreas' attorney, entered the plea at an arraignment before U.S. District Court Judge Earl Larson, on behalf of both the wealthy banker and First Interoceanic Corp., of which Andreas was board chairman in 1968. First Interoceanic has since been folded into Andreas' Independent Bancorporation.

Because he pleaded innocent and because the charges are misdemeanors, it was not necessary for Andreas to appear in person in court, according to a spokesman for the Watengate special prosecutor's office in Washington.

After accepting the pleas, Larson set nominal bail at \$1,000 on a personal recognizance bond. By agreement with Charles Ruff, of the special prosecutor's office in Washington who is handling the case, the judge set Dec. 27 for a hearing on motions.

Larson ordered Andreas

to appear in person at the courthouse here prior to Dec. 27 to complete any necessary routine.

Since the case began over a month ago Andreas has been presumed to be traveling abroad. Today, his lawyer produced in court a handwritten letter from Andreas to the judge asking for "waiver of personal appearance." The letter, dated Nov. 16, was written on the stationery of the Cavendish Hotel in London. There was no indication during the subsequent proceedings whether Andreas is still there.

A criminal information was filed here Oct. 19 by the special prosecutor's office, then still under Archibald Cox, charging that Andreas had consented to four \$25,000 contributions to the Humphrey campaign in October and November, 1968, in violation of the ban on giving corporation money to a political campaign.

The charge is a misdemeanor, carrying a maximum fine of \$5,000 on each count against the corporation, and maximums of a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine on each of the counts against Andreas.

Andreas has made no comment on the charges, but Humphrey issued a statement Oct. 20 praising his friend and asserting that he "would not knowingly violate any law."

While Andreas apparently contributed at least \$75,000 to Humphrey's futile bid for the Democratic nomination last year, he later shifted to support President Nixon, to whom he apparently gave at least \$146,000.

The special prosecutor's mandate does not specifically cover the 1968 campaign, but apparently the 1968 contributions surfaced during an investigation of Andreas' 1972 contributions to the Nixon campaign—notably, the \$25,000 in cash that ended up in the bank account of one of the men convicted in the Watergate conspiracy.