

\$3.2 Million in Election Gifts Laid to Defense Contractors

By Morton Mintz

Washington Post Staff Writer

Officers and directors of the 100 top defense contractors contributed \$3.2 million to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President before a strict disclosure law became effective April 7, 1972, and \$2.2 million afterward, Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) said yesterday.

The total of \$5.4 million, developed in a study by Aspin's staff, accounts for about 11 per cent of the \$60 million acknowledged by the committee to have been raised for Mr. Nixon's nomination and re-election campaigns.

The study disclosed that nothing, or small sums, was listed for officers and directors of some of the largest defense contractors, including Grumman, Textron, Telodyne, AVCO, Boeing and Lockheed.

Aspin termed this "unbelievable" and said it indicated the \$5.4 million to be "probably just the tip of the iceberg." He said he has asked the Senate Watergate committee to investigate the possibility that some contributions remain secret.

The study showed the largest contributions were recorded for oil, electronics and aircraft companies.

The leader on the Aspin list was Gulf Oil, with contributions of \$1,039,000 by



REP. LES ASPIN
... releases figures

members of the family of Richard Mellon Scaife. He also has large banking, industrial and publishing interests. The list excluded \$100,000 in corporate funds that Gulf has admitted giving illegally and secretly through its Washington vice president. The firm and the official pleaded guilty and were fined in U.S. District Court last month.

Officers and directors of the following firms also were high on the Aspin list:

- International Business Machines, \$326,545, with all but \$26,545 of its coming from former Ambassador to France Arthur K. Watson before April 7, 1972 (The early contributions were secret until Common Cause

forced disclosure with a lawsuit).

- Tenneco, a giant international conglomerate that builds nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers and sells petroleum products, \$307,287, including \$251,000 given before the disclosure law took effect.

- City Investing Co., a conglomerate that manufactures ammunition and bombs, \$232,550, all after April 7, 1972.

- Litton Industries, \$191,131 in pre-April 7 contributions, including \$21,000 from Roy L. Ash, now director of the Office of Management and Budget, and \$35,056 afterward. Aspin described Litton as "a shipbuilder whose contracts have suffered many overruns lately."

- Northrop Aviation, producer of F-5 fighter aircraft, \$105,000 before April 7, \$21,000 after.

- Texas Instruments, producer of advanced electronic equipment, \$76,718 before April 7, \$41,282 afterward.

- Lockheed, the largest defense contractor, had an employees' nonpartisan fund listed for \$50,000. Officers of McDonnell-Douglas, the second-largest, were listed for \$84,432 (\$33,496 of it before April 7), and General Dynamics, third largest, for \$92,595 (\$72,414 before April 7).