

REBOZO IS QUERIED ON CAMPAIGN ROLE

Declines to Discuss Replies to Finance Questions in Common Cause Action

By ANTHONY REPLEY

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MIAMI, Dec. 20—President Nixon's close friend, C. G. Rebozo, arrived in a driving rainstorm this afternoon to answer questions about political donations to the President's 1972 campaign.

Neither Mr. Rebozo and his lawyers nor the lawyers for Common Cause, the public interest lobbying group, would comment on the formal questions and answers handled by Mr. Rebozo in a meeting in his suite at the Sheraton Four Ambassadors Hotel.

"I don't think this is the time or the place to talk," Mr. Rebozo said as he walked through the hotel lobby, smiling.

A stocky, genial man, he was dressed in a blue houndstooth jacket, darker blue pants and a light blue shirt. His necktie was fastened with a tie clip that bore the Presidential Seal.

Praise For 'Persistence'

The Key Biscayne banker complimented reporters and cameramen for their "persistence" as they followed him through the lobby and up the elevator.

He was accompanied by Kenneth Wells Parkinson of Washington, a lawyer for the Finance Committee for the Re-election of the President, and William Frates, his personal lawyer.

Mitchell Rogovin, general counsel for Common Cause, and Kenneth J. Guido, the assistant general counsel, met them at a 14th-floor room.

The Common Cause lawyers said they planned to take statements from a dozen or more persons close to the President and his 1972 campaign.

Their action is a result of a suit on election funds decided by Judge Joseph Waddy of the United States District Court in Washington. One of the terms of that decision was that Common Cause should be satisfied that a full and accurate accounting of the funds is made by the President's backers.

To obtain that accounting, Common Cause is empowered to take depositions. The organization is to notify the court later whether or not it is satisfied with the accounting.

The Common Cause suit was brought in September, 1972, under the old Federal Corrupt Practices Act.

On Sept. 28, Republican law-

yers turned over an accounting of contributions made to the Nixon campaign between Jan. 1, 1971, and April 6, 1972. They said it was as accurate as they could make it at that time.

Questions on \$100,000

Common Cause lawyers believe that there may be gaps in the financial reports and errors. In questioning Mr. Rebozo, they were concentrating on \$100,000 given to Mr. Rebozo by representatives of Howard R. Hughes, the industrialist. The money was intended for Mr. Nixon but Mr. Rebozo has said it was merely kept in the safe deposit box at his bank and then returned to Mr. Hughes's representatives this year.

Common Cause argues that such money may have found its way into the 1972 re-election campaign as part of a surplus left over from the Congressional campaigns of 1970. They believe that it should be accurately accounted for.

They also plan to take statements on Jan. 14 in Washington from Patrick Hillings, a lawyer who represented the dairy industry when it pledged at least \$2-million to Mr. Nixon's campaign.

Mr. Parkinson, before today's deposition began, said he felt the matter was being dragged out excessively.