

Oilmen Gave \$5 Million to Nixon Effort

By Austin Scott

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Officials and principal stockholders of 178 oil and gas companies contributed almost \$5 million of the \$60.2 million raised to re-elect Richard M. Nixon in 1972, according to a study released yesterday by Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.).

Aspin said that 413 directors, senior officials and stockholders from the companies contributed \$4,981,840. He compiled his 58-page report from contributor lists of Common Cause and the General Accounting Office.

The figure does not include \$268,700 given to the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President by former New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and his brothers, who own stock in Exxon.

Atop Aspin's list of contributions by companies was the Gulf Oil Co., whose officers and directors gave a total of \$1,176,500. Gulf, along with Phillips and Ashland, have each admitted illegally donating \$100,000 in corporate funds to the campaign. Those contributions were later returned.

Other companies where individual gifts added up to enough to place them in Aspin's top 11:

Amerada Hess Corp., \$261,956; Getty Oil Co., \$179,292; Standard Oil of California, \$166,000; Sun Oil Co., \$157,798; Pan Ocean Oil Corp., \$137,035; Phillips Petroleum Co., \$137,000; Exxon, \$127,747; the Williams Companies, \$117,596; Shaheen Natural Resources, \$104,000; and Ashland Oil, Inc., \$103,500.

Not all major companies gave a lot. Aspin's compilation listed only \$1,000 from the American Oil Co. — given by James R. Stockton — and a total of \$4,500 from three officers of Shell, one of the industry's multi-national giants.

In some cases one or two individual contributions amounted to most of the total.

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Richard Scaife, heir to the Gulf-Mellon fortune, gave \$1,003,000 of Gulf's total, with the rest split among five individuals, which had already been reported.

Scaife is heir to the Mellon industrial and banking fortune, which in addition to Gulf Oil includes the Aluminum Co. of America and the Mellon National Bank.

There were some large gifts Aspin did not list in the top 11 because, an aide said, the reasons for giving might easily have had to do with interests other than oil, although such reasons were not specified.

The Rockefeller brothers' gift was in that category, the aide said, as well as \$109,000 listed for John Loeb, a director of Texas Pacific Oil, a subsidiary of Seagrams, Ltd., and a partner in the investment firm of Loeb Rhoades.

Another gift in that category, the aide said, was \$106,500 listed for Arthur E. Johnson, former chairman of the Midwest Oil Corp.

Most of the individual contributions had been made public earlier. William Broydrick, the aide to Aspin, said the totals for contributions by company were arrived at by matching donations to the Nixon committee with the names on the American Petroleum Institute's list of oil company executives and directors.

Broydrick said two contribution lists were used. One, published by the General Accounting Office, lists contributions made after April 7, 1972, when a new campaign disclosure law took effect.

The other, disclosed only after a successful court suit by Common Cause, the self-named citizens lobby, lists contributions made before that date.

Aspin said the study supports his claim that "President Nixon's hands are tied, preventing him from dealing ef-

fectively with the current energy crisis.

"The big oil companies have Mr. Nixon in a double hammer lock," he said. "After their massive contributions there is little he can do to control them."

The Wisconsin Democrat has introduced legislation that would clamp an excess-profits tax on the oil companies, and has called for forcing them to increase their production, eliminating oil import taxes, and eliminating foreign tax credits, which he said encourages them to explore for oil overseas instead of in the United States.

Aspin's compilation did not speculate on any other reasons the individuals named

might have had for donating to the President's re-election campaign.

Seven of the oil companies, however, showed up on an earlier Aspin study saying the directors and officials of the 100 top defense contractors gave \$5.4 million to the re-election campaign.

Some of the individuals listed touch the government in several areas of interest.

Aspin's list of contributors from Standard Oil of California, for example, includes \$89,500 from David Packard, a director of the company as well as a former deputy secretary of defense in the Nixon administration, and founder of an electronics firm that has many defense contracts.

Aspin listed the total from Standard of California executives at \$166,000.

The Amerada Hess total included \$160,000 from Leon Hess, board chairman.

Aspin said he is turning his study over to the Senate Watergate committee, in hopes it will make a more exhaustive study of gifts by principal oil company stockholders.

Such a study "will undoubtedly disclose some pretty hefty gifts to Mr. Nixon," he said.

The fact that he found small gifts, or none at all, from some major companies "raises questions about possible additional secret and maybe even corporate gifts," Aspin said.