

Nixon Fund Payout Set

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Trustees of President Nixon's leftover campaign funds have decided to pay legal fees and expenses for former officials acquitted of criminal charges and possibly for those found guilty of misdemeanors.

One of the largest beneficiaries of the decision could be one of the trustees — former Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, who is on trial in New York on federal charges of criminal conspiracy, perjury and obstruction of justice.

Stans, who reportedly has spent more than \$100,000 out of his own pocket for legal fees, participated in the trustees' decision, according to one of the other trustees.

Although the decision expands a previous policy of the Nixon campaign organization, both of Stans' co-trustees said in interviews they were unaware it was a change.

Stans was finance director of the Nixon campaign. He is on trial along with former Attorney General John H. Mitchell in a case arising from a secret \$200,000 campaign contribution.

Mitchell, political chief of the Nixon campaign for several months in 1972, also could be a major beneficiary of the trustees' decision if he is acquitted in the New York trial and of criminal charges filed in the Watergate cover-up two weeks ago in Washington.

Stans is one of three trustees of \$3.57 million in funds left over from the \$60-million Nixon campaign. The others are Nashville insurance executive Guilford Dudley Jr. and Washington businessman Charles Potter.

Dudley and Potter, both prominent long-time Republicans, had no official connection with the Nixon campaign. Both indicated that they

signed on as trustees reluctantly.

In a telephone interview Wednesday night, Dudley said Stans was present at a meeting in Potter's office in Washington last month when the trustees went over the trust agreement and signed it.

In a report to the General Accounting Office last June 10, the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President said its Re-elect the President said its in April to pay legal fees and expenses in matters "which are not the subject of formal criminal charges."

The agreement filed by the trust when it took over from the finance committee at the end of February states that while legal fees will not be paid for someone under indictment, "he shall be reimbursed for all such fair and reasonable legal expenses if he is not found guilty of a felony."

Dudley said he questioned the section on legal fees

closely "and I was told this was the policy all along."

Potter added: "In fairness, someone who is indicted and proven innocent should be paid. I felt very strong about this."