

# Stockholders Sue Gulf Aides Over Political Gifts

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WASHINGTON, March 27—A stockholder suit asking more than \$1-million in damages personally against officers of the Gulf Oil Corporation was filed today by a public interest law firm as an outgrowth of an illegal political campaign contribution in 1972.

The suite seeks the damages for "loss of goodwill" allegedly suffered by the corporation because of illegal donations its officers made.

A similar suit, filed today in New York, asks for more than \$10,000 in damages from officers of American Airlines, Inc. That suit was filed by an organization affiliated with Ralph Nader, the advocate of consumer causes.

In a related development, a

report on activities of Associated Milk Producers, Inc., showed that the dairy group funneled more than \$85,000 to the campaigns of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey from 1968 on.

## Internal Report Made

The figures on money that went to Senator Humphrey's Presidential effort in 1968 and his election as Senator in 1970 are scattered through a 157-page internal report prepared at the direction of the dairy group's board of directors and made public yesterday.

It was difficult to determine a precise sum from the report because some of the figures were listed as "ball park" estimates.

A study of the documents by The New York Times showed \$85,813 that appeared to go to

Mr. Humphrey's campaigns through lawyers and other intermediaries with a portion of \$40,000 more possibly going to him also.

The Associated Press reported \$91,691 channeled into the 1968 campaign and \$34,500 spent in the 1970 campaign.

In a statement issued by his press secretary, Betty South, the Senator said in part:

"It would have been extremely difficult for any campaign committee to identify the funds involved as coming from corporate funds in view of the fact that these apparently were direct transactions between A.M.P.I. and individuals and groups other than campaign committees."

The Senator said he had no direct knowledge of the transactions and that "the responsibility for running my campaign was vested in committees."

## Own 37 Shares of Stock

The Gulf suit was brought by the Project on Corporate Responsibility, Joseph D. Kyle and Charlotte Kyle of Hastings, Neb., and the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ. They own a total of 37 shares of stock in the corporation.

The suit names as defendants the corporation, Claude C. Wild Jr., who served as vice president for governmental relations from 1968 to last March 1, and seven members of the board of directors.

Mr. Wild pleaded guilty Nov. 13, along with the corporation, to misdemeanor charges brought by the special Watergate prosecution force. He was fined \$1,000 and the corporation was fined \$5,000.

The suit charges that the corporation gave \$100,000 to President Nixon's re-election campaign; \$10,000 to the Presidential campaign of Senator

Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, and \$15,000 to the Presidential campaign of Representative Wilbur D. Mills, Democrat of Arkansas. It was filed in Federal District Court here.

It charges that the donations were "a waste of corporate funds for the purpose of corrupting public morals and contrary to public policy" and showed "a gross breach of trust" and violation of the responsibility to carry out the corporation's business fairly.

It asks that Mr. Wild and the other officers repay the corporation's \$5,000 fine, pay legal costs, reimburse the corporation for corporate salaries spent in the illegal transactions, pay interest on the funds given politicians that would have been earned if the funds had been in a bank instead, and pay \$1-million in damages.