

Firm Pleads Guilty In Nixon Donation

Washington

A major defense contractor for the government and the chairman of its board of directors pleaded guilty yesterday to illegally contributing \$50,000 in company funds to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

The Northrop Corp. and its chairman, Thomas V. Jones, were each fined \$5000 by U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. Hart implied that Jones might have also received a prison term were it not for the fact that the statute that he violated — prohibiting campaign contributions by government contractors — had never before been enforced.

"If there ever comes before me a case of violation of this law on or after this date," Hart warned, "somebody will most certainly go to jail."

The staff of the special Watergate prosecutor, which brought the Northrop case, also issued a warning:

"The plain meaning of the statute evidences special concern for those instances of prohibited corporate contributions where the contributor is a major government contractor." The statement also said that whenever "prohibited corporate contributions are made, where a substantial percentage of the firm's business is in government contracts," the special prosecutor's office would go to court.

A study group of the special prosecution headed by Thomas McBride has brought a number of cases against corporations and their executives based on a more general statute prohibiting corporate contributions.

A vice president of Northrop, James Allen, pleaded guilty yesterday to a "non-willful violation" of the general statute.

Allen was fined \$1000. Ac-



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THOMAS V. JONES
 A Stanford trustee

cording to the charge against him, he consented to \$24,000 of Northrop's contribution to the Nixon campaign.

The information, or recital of charges, filed against Northrop and its chairman stated that the defendants used back-dated documents and other means to represent to government investigators that the contributions consisted of personal funds contributed by Northrop executives. The charges also said that the concern's European consultant had been used in conveying the corporate funds to the re-election campaign.

The Northrop Corp. issued a statement saying that both Jones and Allen had expressed their "deep regret that corporate funds had been used for political purposes." The statement added that the officers involved had reimbursed the corporation for the funds.

(A Stanford University news release quoted a Northrop spokesman as confirming that \$50,000 of the cash given to Herbert Kalmbach, formerly President Nixon's personal attorney,

was to be used as "support money" for the seven Watergate defendants.

(The spokesman said that Jones, a member of the Stanford Board of Trustees, knew nothing of the intended use of the money.)

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