

House Nixon Probers Who Got Dairy Funds

Washington

The nation's three largest dairy-farmer cooperatives made political donations of from \$100 to \$11,000 to at least 16 members of the House Judiciary Committee, which is investigating allegations that President Nixon was influenced by contributions from the same groups.

The recipients include committee chairman Peter W. Rodino, whose urban New Jersey district has no dairy farmers in it. An aide said Rodino didn't ask for the money, and said he could not explain why the cooperatives gave it to the congressman from Newark.

Two of the recipients gave back the money after the Associated Press questioned them about it.

Charles Rangel (Dem-N.Y.) gave back \$100 he got last March, and Thomas Railsback (Rep-Ill.) returned \$500 he received in 1972.

They said they acted to avoid any conflict of interest, but the other recipients said they see no conflict.

The committee is investigating allegations that the co-ops gave money to Mr. Nixon to raise milk price supports, impose dairy import quotas and divert the course of a Justice Department antitrust investigation.

Mr. Nixon received \$737,500 from the co-ops over three years, and had been promised \$2 million. The White House has said this money didn't influence the President's actions.

The three co-ops are Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Dairymen, Inc., and Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. Together they control about one-fourth of the nation's milk production.

According to public records going back to April 7, 1972, these committee members received money

to nine Democrats and \$8100 to seven Republicans.

In the same period, Mr. Nixon received \$295,000 from the co-ops, including \$200,000 that filtered through established Republican committees about the time of the election.

It isn't known how much the dairy co-ops gave to Judiciary members before April 7, 1972, because those records are sealed and no longer available for public inspection. Mr. Nixon received \$442,500 before that time.

Associated Press

from one or more of the co-ops:

M. Caldwell Butler (Rep.-Va.), \$1000; William S. Cohen (Rep.-Me.), \$3000; John Conyers Jr. (Dem-Mich.), \$100; David W. Dennis (Rep.-Ind.), \$500; Walter Flowers (Dem.-Ala.), \$1000; Harold W. Froehlich (Rep.-Wis.), \$100; William Hungate (Dem.-Mo.), \$2300; Robert W. Kastenmeier (Dem.-Wis.), \$2650; Trent Lott (Rep.-Miss.), \$2500; Robert McClory (Rep.-Ill.), \$500; Edward Mezvinsky (Dem.-Iowa), \$11,000; Wayne Owens (Dem.-Utah), \$2600; Railsback, \$500; Rangel, \$100; Rodino, \$4100, and Jerome Waldie (Dem.-Calif.), \$200.

Kastenmeier, Hungate and Flowers were among 121 House sponsors of bills that would have raised the federal support price for milk in 1971. The White House has said these bills and similar measures in the Senate constituted a "gun to our head" that forced Mr. Nixon to raise prices in March, 1971.

Dairy donations since April 7, 1972, to the members of the Judiciary Committee total \$32,150—\$24,050