

3 Milk Co-ops Amass \$2-Million for Fall Campaign

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The three large dairy cooperatives whose heavy contributions to President Nixon's reelection campaign are under scrutiny in the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry have a political war chest of more than \$2-million for the Congressional campaigns this year, according to reports on file here.

The three — Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Dairymen, Inc., and Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.—gave about \$700,000 in Mr. Nixon's behalf before Election Day in 1972. Most of it was contributed after the President overruled his Secretary of Agriculture in 1971 and ordered an increase in milk-price supports.

Allegations of a link between the contributions and the price-support order are among the matters that the Judiciary Committee is examining.

The continued accumulation of political funds seemed clear evidence that the controversy had failed to divert the groups from their frequently acknowledged determination to make themselves an influence to be reckoned with in Washington.

Among the contributions reported thus far this year, the biggest share has gone to members of the House Agriculture Committee, which handles legislation affecting the milk industry, according to a compila-

tion by the National Information Center on Political Finance, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Citizens Research Foundation of Princeton, N.J. The compilation was made from reports filed with the House, the Senate and the General Accounting Office.

Meanwhile, the political committee of one of the co-ops, Dairymen, Inc., with headquarters in Louisville, Ky., has branched out. The committee, the Trust for Special Political Agricultural Community Education, known as SPACE, has formed subsidiary committees in six states to distribute political contributions.

The biggest of the three co-ops, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., which gave the largest share to Mr. Nixon's campaigns, has \$1,557,731 in hand for contributions, according to a report filed late in May. Dairymen, Inc., had a fund of \$326,078 in mid-May, and Mid-America Dairymen had \$278,774 at the time of its most recent report, Feb. 28.

Checks and Checkoffs

The organizations' political committees accumulate funds by checkoffs from payments to their dairymen members and from employe paychecks.

As of their last reports, the political committees have spent \$247,292 thus far in the 1974 campaign season, with \$64,350 of that going to candidates for Federal offices.

The money has been going to members of both parties and all

but one contribution—\$500 for Nick Galifianakis of North Carolina, who was defeated in a Democratic primary for a Senate candidacy—has been spent on incumbents.

Two of the three largest contributions of \$5,000 each went to members of the House Agriculture Committee, and \$900 more was distributed among other members of the committee.

One of those \$5,000 contributions went to Representative Frank A. Stubblefield, Democrat of Kentucky, a longtime member of the House Agriculture dairy subcommittee. Nevertheless, Mr. Stubblefield, a 67-year-old veteran of 16 years in the House, was defeated in a recent primary by a 36-year-old state Senator, Carroll Hubbard Jr., by 616 votes.

The other committee member receiving one of the largest contributions was Representative David R. Bowen, Democrat of Mississippi, a 41-year-old former professor of political science, who won his 1972 race with 62 per cent of the vote and easily defeated his one rival in a recent primary, taking 82 per cent of the votes.

The other recipient of \$5,000 was Representative Tom Steed of Oklahoma, an influential Democrat who has served in the House since 1949 and is expected to have little difficulty in his coming primary and general election races.

Not all of the dairy contribu-

tions were one way, however. Senator Bob Dole, a Republican member of the Senate Agriculture Committee who faces stiff opposition from the probable winner of the Democratic primary in Kansas, Representative William R. Roy, has returned \$6,500 contributed by Mid-America's committee.

An aide said the Senator felt he could not keep the contribution, received in 1973, because Mid-America was being sued on anti-trust grounds by the Justice Department.

The "custodian, books and accounts" of the six state funds created by Dairymen, Inc., is the same official who is trustee of SPACE, its political committee. He is J. E. Mueller, the co-op's controller.