

3 Dairy Political Units Report Donation Rise

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Despite a continuing rain of adverse publicity, the political committees of the three largest dairy cooperatives have been harvesting contributions from memberships at a sharply increased rate.

During the first two months of 1974, the contributions flowed in at the rate of \$3,000 a day, for a total of \$177,032 in 59 days.

But the daily pace in the three months ended May 31 increased more than 50 per cent, averaging \$4,156. The total for the 92-day period was \$382,328.

The contributions — nearly all of them in sums of less than \$100 each — were reported by the committees to

government supervisors of the election-financing disclosure law. Reports for the three months ended May 31 became available yesterday.

The committees wound up on May 31 with cash on hand totaling \$2,183,782 — \$170,418 more than on Feb. 28—and with no clear indication what is going to be done with it all.

The largest of the committees is C-TAPE, the political arm of the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (AMPI), of San Antonio. Its reports for the 92-day period list \$215,474 in membership receipts and \$1,551,681 cash on hand.

Ranking second is SPACE, political unit of Dairymen, Inc., of Louisville, with membership income of \$76,940 and

\$329,335 cash on hand.

The third committee is ADEPT, a unit of Mid-America Dairymen of Springfield, Mo. Its members gave it \$89,914, increasing cash on hand to \$302,765.

Although all three of the cooperatives are the targets of Justice Department antitrust suits, it is AMPI that has loomed largest in the presidential impeachment investigation by the House Judiciary Committee and the Watergate investigation by Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

The investigations have focused on contributions made to and sought for the re-election campaign of President Nixon, although the committees have been regularly making contributions to dozens of House and Senate candidates as well as to numerous candidates for state offices, on a bipartisan basis.

In the recent three-month period, the committees contributed a relatively modest sum \$108,176, in all—to federal and state candidates and political committees. C-TAPE accounted for \$34,150, while the smaller committees each accounted for more—SPACE for \$39,123 and ADEPT for \$34,903.

The C-TAPE expenditure was \$5,075 less than the committee reported collecting in bank interest on its idle funds.

Together, the committees gave \$30,000 to the Republican House-Senate dinner committee and \$26,000 to its Democratic annual fund-raising counterpart.