

LEGAL COSTS CUT 1972 NIXON FUND

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Report Cites Expenditures

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WASHINGTON, June 11 — The last of President Nixon's giant 1972 campaign chest is being whittled down sharply by legal fees and settlements associated with the Watergate affair.

The President's backers said they had raised \$60.2-million and that about \$4.5-million had been left over after the campaign.

The total left now is \$3.3-million, with a series of bills and a proposed court settlement already earmarking \$1.1-million more of what remains.

More legal bills are expected, and still further money may have to be returned to donors because it may have been illegally given, according to a report filed yesterday with the General Accounting Office.

A Trust Is Set Up

Last February, the Stans Finance Committee to Re-elect the President was replaced by the 1972 Campaign Liquidation Trust, headed by Charles E. Potter, a former United States Senator from Michigan.

The two other trustees are Maurice H. Stans, the former Commerce Secretary, who was one of Mr. Nixon's two top fund raisers, and Guilford Dudley Jr. of Nashville, an insurance executive who was Ambassador to Denmark from April, 1969, to November, 1971.

When papers for the trust were filed in February, they indicated that much of the surplus had been spent on legal fees growing from the Watergate investigations.

In the regular June 10 report filed yesterday, the trust noted still further obligations.

The committee reported that it expected to settle a series of lawsuits that grew out of the June 17, 1972, burglary of the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate office building for a total of \$775,000.

One Official Balking

However, at least one of those involved in these suits, R. Spencer Oliver former executive director of the Association of State Democratic Chairmen, has not agreed to a settlement.

It was Mr. Oliver's telephone that was tapped by the Watergate burglary team and he has sued for \$5-million. According to his lawyer, Joseph H. Koontz Jr., he is preparing to go to trial.

The trust, and the committee

that preceded it, have regularly been paying lawyer's fees for re-election officials caught up in various aspects of the Watergate affair.

Two large bills, both approved but not yet paid, are for Mr. Stans's lawyers and his expenses during the 10-week trial in New York in which he and John N. Mitchell, former Attorney General, were acquitted.

Both had been charged with conspiracy in accepting a \$200,000 cash contribution for the 1972 Presidential election campaign from a financier, Robert L. Vesco.

The two Stans bills are \$98,204.26 from Wilkinson, Cragun & Barker of New York and \$283,188.55 from Carr, Bonner, O'Connell, Kaplan & Thompson.

Mitchell Claim Expected

"It is anticipated that Mr. Mitchell will submit a claim for the payment of legal fees and related legal expenses in connection with the case," the trustees noted, in their June 10 report form. "However, a claim has not yet been submitted."

The trust has already paid a \$760 hotel bill that Mr. Mitchell incurred while he was in Washington testifying before the Senate Watergate committee and another bill of \$9,194.85 to his lawyers.

The trust also listed \$20,174.20 in payments to various lawyers and for expenses in behalf of Mr. Stans.

The trust listed \$70,845.07 paid to Jackson, Laskey & Parkinson, the law firm that had represented the old committee before one of its partners, Kenneth Wells Parkinson, was indicted for conspiracy in the alleged Watergate cover-up.

In a claim not yet approved, the firm of McKiernan, Blatt & May of Los Angeles has billed the trust for \$27,873.42 for "professional services and related expenses" for the President's brother, Edward C. Nixon, who served as a minor official at the re-election committee and testified in the Vesco trial.

The trust has repaid \$40,000 to Braniff Airways, Inc., and \$3,240 to the Northrop Corporation. Both have pleaded guilty to making illegal campaign contributions. Another \$2,000 has been requested by Delaureal Engineers, Inc., of New Orleans to refund a contribution made from corporate funds and has not been approved.

The trust itself listed \$84,512.06 in legal fees paid.

The general Accounting office, the auditing agency of Congress, received the report as part of its role in the enforcement of campaign spending laws.