

Kalmbach on Milk Prices

Washington

Several members of the House Judiciary Committee said testimony yesterday by former presidential attorney Herbert Kalmbach strengthened suspicions that the administration raised milk price supports in 1971 in exchange for a \$2 million campaign pledge.

Both Democratic and Republican members said Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's former personal attorney and fund-raiser, drew a strong link between the milk producers' campaign pledge and the increase in federal price supports for dairy products.

"We're beginning to establish a case of bribery," Representative Elizabeth Holtzman (Dem-N.Y.) said after Kalmbach's testimony in closed session. Representative Trent Lott (Rep-Miss.), who would not characterize the testimony added, "I'd just as soon he hadn't said some of the things he said."

But none of the members said that Kalmbach implicated Mr. Nixon in the alleged scheme. Representative Robert McClory (Rep-Ill.) said Kalmbach did not even mention the President's name and he doubted the committee would vote an article of impeachment on the matter.

Kalmbach was the final witness before the committee heard rebuttal arguments from Mr. Nixon's Watergate attorney, James St. Clair. Special committee counsel John M. Doar said he planned to offer a number of alternative articles of impeachment to the members tomorrow along with evidence supporting them. A final committee vote is expected next week.

Several members said Kalmbach testified that H. R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's former chief of staff, authorized him to meet with a lawyer for the Associated Milk Producers, Inc., in 1969 to accept a \$100,000 contribution.

Kalmbach testified he did so, according to Holtzman,

and was told by the lawyer, Milton P. Semer, that milk producer had a "request or demand, whichever way you want to put it, for price support increases."

Other members said Associated Milk Producers had two other requests — for Mr. Nixon to speak before its banquet and for a personal greeting by Mr. Nixon in his oval office. All three requests were realized within the next year.

Representative Lawrence Hogan (Rep-Md.) said he thought the most damaging testimony to date was what Kalmbach said in relation to allegations the administration appointed ambassadors in exchange for campaign contributions.

"At least two of the three people involved thought their contributions were quid pro quo" for ambassadorships, Hogan said after Kalmbach's testimony. "It looks like they are selling ambassadorships."

The two, he said, were J. Fife Symington, who turned down an ambassadorship he did not want, and Ruth Farkas, ambassador to Luxembourg. He said the third ambassadorship offer was to Vincent de Roulet, removed as ambassador to Jamaica in July, 1973, after he made embarrassing statements.

After Kalmbach finished testifying, Representative Charles Wiggins (Rep-Calif.) reported that Kalmbach described details of the offer of an ambassadorship to Symington. Kalmbach said Symington called him and offered to contribute \$100,000

to the Nixon campaign in return for a diplomatic post in Europe, Wiggins said.

Kalmbach said he then called Haldeman, but was told he was not in. Instead, Kalmbach said, Haldeman's assistant, Lawrence Higby, took the message and called

back in 15 minutes to say the "word is go; lock it up," according to Wiggins.

Wiggins also said that Kalmbach repeated several times under questioning that he had not talked to the President about any such ambassadorships or the \$2

million dairy pledge or the raising of high money for Watergate defendants.

Kalmbach has pleaded sadorship in exchange for a guilty to offering an ambassadorship in exchange for a \$100,000 contribution.

A.P. & U.P.