

Strachan Document Contradicts President

Memo Ties Envoy Posts To Campaign Donations

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 18 — Documents released today by the House Judiciary Committee contradict President Nixon's declaration that "ambassadorships have not been for sale" in his Administration.

A memorandum of September, 1971, from Gordon by the committee, mentions the latest in a series released Strachan to H. R. Haldeman, promises of ambassadorial posts to three individuals who together had donated, or promised to donate, more than \$500,000 to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

One of the three, Ruth L. Farkas, who contributed \$300,000 to Mr. Nixon in 1972, is now serving as Ambassador to Luxembourg.

According to the memo, the two others, J. Fife Symington and Vincent de Roulet, while serving as American envoys in the Caribbean, gave \$100,500 each in return for assurances that they would be given more prestigious posts in Europe.

Return of Donations

However, Mr. Strachan wrote in the Sept. 24, 1971, memo of Mr. Haldeman's agreement that the donations "should be returned since the European commitments cannot now be met."

Herbert W. Kalmbach, for several years President Nixon's personal lawyer and one of his principal campaign fund-raisers, pleaded guilty in February to charges that he promised Mr. Symington a European post in return for the contribution.

Federal law prohibits the promising of Government positions subject to confirmation by the Senate to anyone in return for contributions to a political campaign.

In addition, the Federal Corrupt Practices Act makes it a crime to offer a bribe to obtain a Government favor, including an ambassadorial nomination.

The Strachan memo, one of several written in 1971 and 1972 to advise Mr. Haldeman, then White House chief of staff, of developments in the Nixon re-election effort, also contains indications that Mr. Kalmbach or others may have made similar commitments to incumbent Ambassadors who wished, to retain their posts.

Solicitations Mentioned

"In spite of Kalmbach's 1,200 European trip, Mr. Strachan wrote to his superior, "there is no assurance on those posts after 1973." It was Mr. Strachan's habit, when men-

tioning sum of money, to drop the last three digits.

Mr. Kalmbach is known to have visited some American ambassadors at their European embassies in late 1969, but there have been no other indications that he solicited contributions for the 1972 campaign from them during his trip abroad.

Mr. Strachan also wrote cryptically of "the C. V. Whitney move to Spain," saying that it had not been "covered" by Mr. Kalmbach, who wanted Mr. Haldeman to "cover" it.

In June, 1971, three months before the memo was written, Mr. Whitney, a New York industrialist and socialite, gave \$250,000 to the Nixon campaign, according to a report of the Senate Watergate committee.

Mr. Whitney made it plain at the time of the pledge, the report said, that he wished to serve as Ambassador to Spain, and later received an assurance from John N. Mitchell, who was then Attorney General, "that his name would be submitted."

Mr. Whitney's contributions later was returned by the Nixon finance committee after he was told that his name was being "dropped from consideration due to his age."

Another Commitment

After noting that the "commitments" to Mr. de Roulet and Mr. Symington could not "now be met," Mr. Strachan reported to Mr. Haldeman that "the only commitment that Kalmbach is aware of at this time is Farcas [sic] of Costa Rica."

Mrs. Farkas has declined to discuss any circumstance surrounding her \$300,000 contribution and subsequent appointment, and has referred reporters to her testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which approved her nomination as Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Mr. Kalmbach, while conceding that he had promised Mr. Symington the European post, told the Watergate committee that he had first sought and received approval from Mr. Haldeman through Lawrence M. Higby, at the time a Haldeman aide.

Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Higby refused to testify to the Watergate panel on the matter, noting that they had testified to the Watergate grand jury about it.

Letter to Committee

Peter M. Flanigan, at the time, a White House assistant



United Press International
Ruth L. Farkas



Vincent de Roulet

whose duties included filling vacant ambassadorships, told the Watergate committee in a letter that there had been a "misunderstanding" on Mr. Kalmbach's part about the "commitments" to Mr. Symington and Mr. de Roulet, and that such illegal promises to campaign contributors were contrary to Administration "policy."

Mr. Flanigan said he had spoken with Mr. Haldeman about the matter and had been told "that Mr. Kalmbach was misinformed, that he did not have the authority to enter into commitments to Mr. Symington and Mr. de Roulet for ambassadorial posts, and that the policy against commitments remained intact."

Mr. Strachan described Mr. de Roulet in the memo as "really upset" because the European commitment could not be met, adding that "de Roulet wants to meet with you while he is in the U.S."

Mr. Haldeman underlined the phrase about the meeting and added the handwritten notation, "No."

on Political Use of Ambassadorships

JULY 19, 1974

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19