

Milk Men's Bargain

To the Editor:

I wonder if anyone besides me (and, one hopes, Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr.) finds the \$35,000 fine levied against the Associated Milk Producers, Inc., for admittedly making \$561,800 in illegal campaign contributions ludicrous.

As presumably sound businessmen, the milk producers must have expected to reap benefits (and apparently did) far beyond their investment. The fine represents approximately 6.2 per cent of the expenditures, which is a pretty cheap way to do business.

Assuming that the \$2-million pledge to Richard M. Nixon's re-election campaign also finds its way into court, the percentage will be substantially reduced. If not, it drops to a really negligible 1.3 per cent.

It would seem that Congress could quite easily remedy this frightening situation by making the minimum fine stiff enough to encourage second thoughts and the maximum fine equal to the contributions. Then perhaps the moguls (in and out of court) could get back to building "better mouse-traps" and we'd all be better off.

The real tragedy is that the system of free enterprise that built this nation is so eroded, it needs such legislation.

JAEN REILY

Nyack, Aug. 2, 1974