

AUG 31 1974

Shipbuilder Fined for Campaign Coverup

Cleveland

George M. Steinbrenner III, board chairman of The American Ship Building Co. and a general partner of the New York Yankees baseball team, was fined \$15,000 yesterday for conspiring to cover up illegal contributions to the campaign of former President Nixon and several members of Congress.

His firm was fined \$20,000, also the maximum fine permitted by law.

As he left the federal courthouse after being sentenced by U.S. District Judge Leroy J. Conliffe Jr., Steinbrenner said, "The only thing I'll contribute to hereafter is the United Appeal."

Steinbrenner, 43, pleaded guilty August 23 to conspiring to violate federal election campaign contribution laws. He also pleaded guilty to a new charge filed that day, that he devised a false and misleading explanation for a \$25,000 contribution by

the company to Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign and also tried to influence and intimidate company employees in to giving the explanation to the FBI and to a federal grand jury.

The company also entered guilty pleas August 23 to charges of contributing illegally to the 1970 campaign of Representative Charles A. Mosher (Rep-Ohio) and to conspiring to violate federal campaign contribution laws. It was fined \$10,000 on

each count. Steinbrenner was fined \$10,000 for conspiracy and \$5,000 on the charge involving the \$25,000 contribution to Mr. Nixon's campaign.

A federal grand jury indicted Steinbrenner on April 5 for conspiracy, five counts of making illegal campaign contributions, two counts of helping individuals make false statements to the FBI, four counts of obstruction of justice and two counts of obstruction of criminal investi-

gation. Those charges were dropped yesterday at the time of sentencing.

Besides the Mosher and Nixon campaigns, the indictment said illegal contributions were made to campaign organizations of Senators Vance Hartke (Dem-Ind.), and Daniel K. Inouye (Dem-Hawaii); the late Representative Frank T. Bow (R-Ohio) and various congressional dinner committees.

Associated Press