

3M Officials Plead Innocent

Minneapolis

The Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. and two of its board members pleaded innocent yesterday to federal income tax charges stemming from \$634,000 allegedly channeled into a secret fund and used for illegal political contributions.

Bert Cross, 69, former board chairman, and Irwin Hansen, 61, former vice president for finance, entered the pleas during a brief court appearance before U.S. Magistrate J. Earl Cudd here. Both Cross and Hansen are 3M board members.

Charlton Dietz, secretary and assistant general counsel for 3M, entered the innocent plea on behalf of the corporation.

The company, Hansen and

Cross were indicted by a federal grand jury on January 23. They are each charged with one count of income tax conspiracy. Hansen and 3M are also charged in two counts each of filing false corporate tax returns for 1968 and 1969.

The indictments allege that 3M wrote off \$634,000 as deductible insurance and legal expenses but actually funneled the money into a political cache through a Swiss bank account and a Swiss lawyer.

The crimes are all felonies. The company faces a maximum \$20,000 fine. Hansen faces a maximum penalty of 11 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine, and Cross five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

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