

Documents Say Gulf Oil Gave Cash to Hugh Scott

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Gulf Oil Corp "for many years followed the practice" of giving Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) "\$5,000 in the spring and \$5,000 in the fall of each year," according to depositions filed in U.S. District Court here yesterday.

The depositions go on to say that "Gulf had an arrangement in prior years whereby Scott was on retainer" at \$20,000 a year.

The giver of the deposition, Thomas D. Wright, a member of a Pittsburgh law firm that does work for Gulf, said he did not know whether the mentioned retainer was paid directly to Scott or to Scott's law firm.

In the deposition Wright was recalling for Securities and Exchange Commission investigators conversations he had in 1973 with Claude C. Wild Jr., a former Gulf vice president and, for years, the corporation's chief Washington lobbyist.

Wright and his firm were preparing Gulf's defense against charges that it made illegal political contributions with corporate funds.

Wild told Wright, according



SEN. HUGH SCOTT

... "no corporate funds"

to the documents filed yesterday, that the \$5,000 each spring and fall regularly given to Scott for an unstated number of years was not a campaign contribution but a gift "for unrestricted use" to defray personal and office expenses.

A spokeswoman for Scott declined to say whether he had received money from Wild, but issued this statement for Scott:

"All funds received by me from any person were given with assurances that they

represented the contributions of individuals or of employee groups and that no corporate funds were so received to my knowledge. These contributions were either committed to my own campaigns or distributed to further the campaigns of others."

A Gulf spokesman in Pittsburgh said the company had no comment on the statement that Scott had been "on a retainer—either him or his law firm."

The SEC, the Internal Revenue Service and the Watergate special prosecutor's office are all looking into allegedly illegal political contributions by Gulf of corporate funds in recent years. Gulf has admitted making some such contributions.

The Wright deposition says Gulf gave \$50,000 to Richard M. Nixon's presidential campaign in 1968 and \$25,000 to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey's (D-Minn.) the same year. Gulf also gave \$100,000 to Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

There were these other new items in the Wright deposition:

— Wild told Wright that, at the direction of a superior, he

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delivered \$50,000 to then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson on an undetermined date in the early 1960s. Wild said he did not know for what purpose the money was given. Like all the money discussed in the depositions, this sum was in cash.

— In one recent year Gulf gave Senate Finance Committee Chairman Russell B. Long (D-La.) \$25,000 in corporate funds for distribution among fellow senators.

Through a press aide, Long denied receiving \$25,000 or any other sum from Wild "or anyone else from Gulf."

— Wild in 1972 gave what he remembered as \$10,000 to a re-election committee of Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) The money reportedly was given at the request of the Kuwait government, and the reason for the request was not stated.

— Wild in every year from 1968 through 1972 scattered political campaign con-

tributions around the Congress, including \$2,000 to No. 2 Senate Democrat Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) in 1970, the same amount in the same year to the campaigns of Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen (D-Tex.), Harry F. Byrd (Ind.-Va.), J. Glenn Beall Jr. (R-Md.), Paul J. Fannin (R-Ariz.), William E. Brock (R-Tenn.) and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

— Wild also told Wright that former Nixon White House aide Charles Colson once put pressure on Gulf to devote one of its NBC-TV specials to rebroadcasting filmed footage of Tricia Nixon's wedding, presumably on the theory that such a showing would be politically useful to then-President Nixon.

Wild said Colson told him he requested of White House chief of staff H.R. (Bob) Haldeman. Gulf at first agreed, but ultimately both Gulf and NBC refused, according to the deposition.