

Rep. Heinz Says Gulf Oil Gifts Were Accepted Unintentionally

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9 (AP) —Representative H. John Heinz 3d said today that he received illegal contributions from the Gulf Oil Corporation in 1971 and 1972. But he insisted they had been accepted unintentionally, and that "there was no intent to deceive."

"It is clear there were violations of the law," the 39-year-old Pittsburgh Republican told a news conference aimed at shifting attention from the Gulf money to Mr. Heinz's current battle for the Republican nomination to succeed Hugh Scott, the Senate minority leader. "But am I legally culpable? The answer is 'no,' I don't think so."

Mr. Heinz, questioned by newsmen for nearly two hours, said it was wrong in not reporting the \$2,000 received from Gulf in 1971 and \$4,000 more in 1972.

"I did make a mistake in not being more vigilant and as a result, my integrity is being challenged," he said. "I did not seek, want or need any contributions from Gulf. Hard work and honesty have been basic to my political life."

Mr. Heinz, an heir to the pickle and ketchup food processing fortune, said his net worth was \$13 million and that he also was the beneficiary of more than \$11 million in trusts.

"I am not in politics for personal financial gain," he insisted.

The Gulf contributions were made public last December. Mr. Heinz said he became aware of them for the first time last September when he was visited by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Heinz was asked why he waited so long to explain the contributions?

"I wanted to find out exactly what happened," he said. "My attorney and my staff went back into the old files, and I interviewed everyone who may have had anything to do with them."

He said, the first \$2,000 in Gulf cash came in December 1971 from Arthur Harris, a lobbyist, and was represented to have come from Gulf employees. It was used, he added, to pay campaign expenses.

He said that early in 1972 before April 7 when a new Federal election law became effective, an envelope containing \$4,000 in cash was dropped off in his Washington office by Claude C. Wild Jr., another Gulf lobbyist. He said the money was sent to his Pittsburgh headquarters.

Mr. Heinz said his campaign treasurer, D. Grant Peacock, put it in a safe deposit box, where it was held without his knowledge until November, when Mr. Peacock gave it to a Republican official to be distributed to party workers on Election Day. That official died two years ago.

"It is pretty clear that Peacock put the money aside and didn't tell anybody about it," Mr. Heinz said. He added he had instructed his campaign manager, Jim McGregor, not to use cash on election day. He said he failed, however, to advise Mr. Peacock.



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H. John Heinz 3d, Pennsylvania Congressman, in Philadelphia yesterday