

Nixon Unit Used 2d Check-Casher

Per 5/9/73

The Nixon re-election committee used a Bethesda accounting firm to convert campaign checks into cash during 1971, it was revealed in U.S. District Court yesterday.

In a hearing before Judge Joseph C. Waddy, it was disclosed that the firm converted 11 checks into cash and turned them back to the campaign committee.

It was the second such revelation. The earlier case involved \$114,000 which passed through the Miami bank account of convicted Watergate conspirator Bernard L. Barker.

The hearing yesterday was in connection with a deposition given by Henry Buchanan, head of the accounting firm that handled the books of the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President.

Buchanan's attorneys asked the court to keep under seal a deposition given by Buchanan in a suit filed by Common Cause, a citizen's group trying to force disclosure by the Nixon committee of pre-April 7, 1972 contributions and expenditures. Waddy deferred a decision until he reads the deposition.

But also disclosed during the hearing was that the accounting firm cashed five checks to supplement the salary of someone on the re-election committee staff, and it cashed another three checks to pay invoices.

Both sides agreed to keep under seal Buchanan's testimony relative to these eight checks.

Kenneth Guido, lawyer for Common Cause, said after the

hearing he did not know why the committee used Buchanan to cash the checks or what the cash returned to the committee was used for.

Other depositions in the case have revealed that the committee raised up to \$2 million in untraceable cash before April 7, 1972.