

Common Cause Lists Big '72 Donors

By William Claiborne
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Thirty-five big contributors gave almost \$1.4 million to candidates in the 1972 congressional campaign, and the bulk of it went to incumbents, Common Cause has reported.

As was true with the total contributions for 1972, the big spenders' gifts were fairly evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, the citizens' lobby said.

The names of the 35 leading contributors, each of whom gave \$20,000 or more, include leaders in publishing, insurance, data processing, manufacturing and sports.

Common Cause said donors whose names are linked either currently or through inheritance with two major oil companies gave a combined \$251,

000 to congressional candidates in sums over \$20,000.

The biggest single contributor was Cordelia Scaife May, of Pittsburgh, heir to the Mellon family fortune which includes Gulf Oil Co., numerous banking interests and the Aluminum Company of America. She gave \$110,000 to 64 candidates for the House and the Senate, all of them Republicans or conservatives.

Mrs. May, who has remarried since making the contributions, gave more than three times as much to incumbents as challengers. Her brother, Richard Mellon Scaife, a Pittsburgh financier, gave \$56,000 to 37 Republican congressional candidates.

In 1972, Scaife gave slightly over \$1 million of the \$1,176,500 that Gulf Oil Co. officers and directors contributed to

President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Most of the individual contributions listed in Common Cause's 10-volume, 2,000-page campaign spending report were in the \$1,000 to \$3,000 range, although some were as low as \$500 and some as high as \$23,000.

Yesterday's Common Cause report is the fourth of a series by the group's Campaign Monitoring Project, a \$350,000 undertaking that analyzes contributions reported to the clerk of the House and the secretary of the Senate.

The \$62.3 million in contributions listed reflects gifts made between April 7, 1972—the effective date of the campaign finance reporting law—and the end of that year.

Fred Wertheimer, project director, said incumbents received twice as much as chal-

lengers, a statistic that paralleled Common Cause's finding last Sept. 13 that congressional incumbents outspent challengers by approximately 2 to 1 in the 1972 campaign.

Equally disturbing to Common Cause, Wertheimer said, is the influential role that a relatively small number of contributors play in regional federal elections.

"In many House races, \$2,000 may make you the single largest contributor. It puts that individual in the role of being one of the most important factors in the campaign," said Wertheimer.

In addition to tabulating the big contributors, Common Cause found that 16 congressional candidates in 1972 gave \$390,318 to their own campaigns in amounts of over \$20,

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000, but only two of them were incumbents. The incumbents were Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) and Rep. Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.), who gave \$28,000 and \$24,592 respectively.

The second largest contributor named by Common Cause was Lawrence Weinberg, a California real estate executive, who donated \$87,087 to 38 Democratic candidates, including 24 incumbents.

John M. Olin, honorary chairman of Olin Corp., the chemical giant, gave \$83,000 to 54 Republicans. However, his gifts were distributed fairly evenly between incumbents and challengers.

Leonard Davis, founder of the Penn Colonial Insurance Co., gave \$76,000 to 26 candidates, most of them Democrats, and Howard Saft, owner of Adlay Jewelry, of New York, gave \$71,500 to 37 Demo-

crats.

W. Clement Stone, who contributed and loaned more than \$2 million to 42 candidates in the 1970 election, was listed as giving only \$23,312 to eight Republicans and one Democrat in the 1972 congressional

elections. The Democrat was Sen. Randolph Jennings of West Virginia.

Mary Woodward Lasker, a New York philanthropist, gave \$39,000 to 29 Democrats, and New York Mets baseball team owner Joan Whitney Payson gave \$58,500 to 22 Republicans

Los Angeles Rams football team owner Carroll Rosenbloom gave \$25,000 to nine Democrats and one liberal candidate.

Another large contributor, with his wife, was John Mulcahy, of Bronxville, N.Y., former president of Quigley Co. They gave \$50,000, but it went to only six candidates, including Rep. Peter Peyser (R-N.Y.), who received \$23,000.

The founder of Equity Funding Corp. of America, Stanley Goldblum, of Los Angeles, gave \$49,000 to 38 Democrats, but he channeled his money through the National Committee for the Re-election of a Democratic Congress, earmarking it for specific candidates.

Equity Funding has been the center of a widening series of investigations involving the fabrication of millions of dollars worth of bogus insurance policies.