

Kalmbach and Safire Reportedly Sought Gulf & Western

By NICHOLAS GAGE

Gulf & Western Industries, Inc., was asked last year to contribute "services" to President Nixon's campaign, company sources said yesterday.

They said that three requests had been made first by Herbert W. Kalmbach, then the President's personal lawyer, and later by William L. Safire, a special assistant to President Nixon and now a columnist for The New York Times.

Federal law prohibits a company from contributing to a political campaign.

Both Mr. Safire and Martin S. Davis, a senior vice president at Gulf & Western, a conglomerate whose companies include Paramount Pictures, confirmed yesterday that they had talked about contributions to the campaign, but Mr. Davis

said that he could not remember if services had been specifically mentioned.

Other Gulf & Western executives said, however, that Mr. Kalmbach and Mr. Safire had solicited such as campaign films services from the company but they had been turned down.

Turned Down Solicitors

Mr. Safire said that he had been asked by Mr. Kalmbach to talk with Mr. Davis "in terms of services" and had done so. But after he met with Mr. Davis, he said, he called Mr. Kalmbach and told him that he did not want to pursue the matter.

"I just didn't like the feel of it," Mr. Safire recalled. "I didn't know if it was illegal or anything. I had never done any fund raising."

Charles G. Bludhorn, chairman of Gulf & Western, said he was visited by Mr. Kalmbach early in 1972 and asked for a personal contribution. Mr. Bludhorn said he had turned him down as he had numerous others from both major parties who had solicited political contributions from him.

"I was very clear to him about it," Mr. Bludhorn said.

Mr. Kalmbach, who could not be reached for comment yesterday, went to other executives in the company, including Mr. Davis, company sources said.

Mr. Davis said he had also turned down Mr. Kalmbach, but later had gotten a call from Mr. Safire, whom he had known when Mr. Safire was a public relations representative in New York.

He said that Mr. Safire had

come to New York on Feb. 25, 1972, and had met with him at the Four Seasons restaurant.

"We talked about contributions but I don't remember the details," Mr. Davis said. "If services were mentioned, it went by me."

Mr. Safire said that he had stayed away from fund raising while at the White House, but in this one instance he had consented to talk to Mr. Davis when Mr. Kalmbach had asked him to do so.

Mr. Safire said that he had gotten the impression from Mr. Kalmbach that Gulf & Western executives had wanted to help and "talked in terms of services."

He said he could not remember whether he had called Mr. Davis or Mr. Davis had called him. Mr. Davis said that Mr.

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'Services' for Nixon's Campaign

Safire had initiated the call and had asked to see him.

Mr. Safire said that when he had met with Mr. Davis, they talked about how Gulf & Western executives could help in the campaign. "We talked about films and the fact that they had a film capability," Mr. Safire said. "It was left indeterminate as to what they could do."

Mr. Davis called him a few days later in Washington, he recalled. "He was vague, hinted about contributions."

At that point Mr. Safire said that he had called Mr. Kalmbach and told him he didn't want to pursue the matter further and Mr. Kalmbach had told him to "forget it."

Sources in the company said that Mr. Kalmbach had gone to

Gulf & Western executives and had asked them to contribute one per cent of their net worth, or a total of \$100,000.

When they turned him down, he brought up the contribution of services by the company, the sources said.

They added that when company officials rejected that sug-

gestion as well, Mr. Kalmbach dropped out of the picture and Mr. Safire entered.

Mr. Kalmbach, it has been disclosed, obtained an illegal corporate contribution of \$55,000 from American Airlines and solicited funds from other companies involved in negotiations with Government agencies.