

Ex-Aide Gets Probation In Fund-Raising Case

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Former White House aide Jack A. Gleason was placed on one month of unsupervised probation yesterday for his role in an illegal fund-raising operation organized by the Nixon White House in 1970.

Gleason had pleaded guilty on Nov. 15 to aiding and abetting that operation, which raised and distributed money for congressional elections but was illegal because it was not organized with a chairman and a treasurer, as required by the Federal Corrupt Practices Act.

Gleason's attorney, Arthur Cantor, said before the sentencing by U.S. District Court Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. that Gleason had been advised by his superiors in the White House and others that the operation was legal.

Gleason "took his orders from others . . . (who were) senior members of the White House staff," Cantor told the judge.

Gleason, a former professional fund-raiser from New York, was detached to the project from the staff of then-White House political adviser Harry Dent to implement the program and designate the congressional campaign committees that were to get the money, according to charges in the case.

Dent has pleaded guilty to a similar charge of aiding and abetting the 1970 fund-raising operation and has already ended his term of one month of unsupervised probation.

Herbert W. Kalmbach, former President Nixon's former personal attorney and fund-raiser, pleaded guilty a year ago to charges growing out of the same fund-raising operation.

Kalmbach, who has been released from prison after serving about six months, has testified that he was enlisted for the fund-raising drive by former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman.

Cantor said yesterday that Gleason was "used by others



JACK A. GLEASON

. . . pleaded guilty

to carry out their program," and was a "victim more than a perpetrator" of the operation. Cantor also added that Gleason "has no intention of becoming involved" in fund-raising again.

Gleason told the judge in a brief statement that "I regret my action . . . I was at no point aware I was violating the law." He answered "yes" when the judge asked him if lawyers had advised him at the time that the fund was a legal campaign fund.

The fund-raising activity, which came to be known as "Operation Townhouse," raised more than \$3 million that was funneled, at White House direction, into 1970 congressional races. It operated in a backroom office in the basement of a townhouse at 1310 19th St. NW, and prosecutors have said that Gleason was "essentially the administrator" of the fund.