

# Nixon Received Milk Money

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dairy industry promised President Nixon \$2 million in re-election contributions two weeks before the President imposed import quotas on ice cream and other dairy products, it was disclosed Tuesday.

The promise was contained in a letter sent to Nixon Dec. 16, 1970 by Patrick J. Hillings, lawyer for the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. A copy of the letter was obtained by The Associated Press. Public records show the quotas were imposed Dec. 31, 1970 by presidential proclamation.

"This letter discusses a matter of some delicacy and of significant political impact," Hillings said in the opening paragraph.

He said the milk producers' group had donated \$135,000 to Republican candidates in the 1970 mid-term elections and said the group was working to set up "appropriate channels for AMPI to contribute \$2 million for your re-election."

In the following paragraph, Hillings noted that the U.S. Tariff Commission had recommended quotas on dairy products almost three months before. "No presidential proclamation has been issued," Hillings said.

"The problem is this. The dairy industry cannot understand why these recommendations were not implemented very quickly. The longest the Democrats ever took to implement a Tariff Commission dairy recommendation was 16

days," he said.

Copies of the letter have been made available to the Senate Watergate committee and other investigators.

These include public-interest groups suing the administration over an alleged deal by which milk prices were raised in 1971 in return for campaign contributions.

Hillings is a former Republican congressman from the same district Nixon represented in California. He later joined the Washington law firm of long-time Nixon associate Murray M. Chotiner and handled the firm's representation of the milk group. He has since left Washington and returned to California.