

Stone demands curbs on campaign spending

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BY MICHAEL HIRSLEY

W. CLEMENT STONE, largest single contributor to President Nixon's reelection campaign, has called for controls on campaign spending to protect contributors from misuse of their money.

"I believe the Watergate investigation shows it is imperative that there be a code of ethics on how campaign contributions are spent," millionaire Stone said last night.

He said he would withhold contributions, if necessary, to ensure reform.

Stone said his staff will investigate how his \$2-million contribution to the 1972 Nixon campaign was spent.

"I feel in my own mind that none of my money was used for Watergate," he told CHICAGO TODAY. "But I might be fooled."

Stone said he never has sought favors from the President in return for his substantial financial contributions [nearly \$5 million since 1968], but added, "I can expect to get a response when I call the White House.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that I will be making some suggestions to the President about a spending code of ethics."

PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS, such as charitable organizations, have operated under spending controls for years, Stone said. "Government has gone too long without imposing such controls on itself. Further, pen-



W. CLEMENT STONE

alties should be prescribed for violations."

Stone denied a report that he had invited special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox to trace how his contributions to Nixon's campaign were used.

Until his own investigation shows results, Stone said, "I certainly have no intention of contacting Cox or his people, or the Senate committee [probing Watergate] or their people."

He said he would cooperate with probers

if he were directed to do so.

"I have not been contacted by them," he said, "and I'm not extending any invitation that they do so."

Philanthropic organizations such as the W. Clement and Jessie V. Stone Foundation normally trace how their contributions are used and only gradually allocate money to a cause.

In the case of his political contributions, however, Stone admitted he had not followed his normally cautious approach.

"We will definitely change our approach in future political contributions," he said. "We will watch much more closely to see how our money is spent."

THE MAN who will be in charge of Stone's personal investigation into how his political contributions were used is Robert Athey.

The investigation will look into where the checks sent by Stone were cashed. Athey said, "Beyond that, how do you trace it?"

He reiterated Stone's contention that none of the money had been used for Watergate pointing out that Watergate happened several months after the Stone contributions, and that altho Stone's contributions were by check, the payments by the Committee to Reelect the President were in cash.

There was an indication, however, that the committee paid some Stone money in cash even tho all original contributions

* Please turn to page 12

★ from page 2

were by check. Last year, Stone asked that some of his donations be returned to Chicago for use in training pollwatchers for the primary and general elections. C. R. P. responded with a \$15,000 cash disbursement.

ATHEY WAS asked whether Cox or the Senate probers would be contacted if Stone's investigation turned up evidence of a link

between Stone money and the Watergate incident. "We would have to address ourselves to that question if the situation arose," he said. "At this time, it is highly hypothetical."

Stone's friendship with Nixon goes back to 1964, when Stone was a director of the Boys Club of America, and Nixon was elected Boys Club national chairman.

Even then, Stone was a firm advocate of his Positive Mental Attitude [P. M. A.] program.

Nixon had not shown P. M. A. in his "You won't have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore" speech to the press after losing the 1962 California gubernatorial race.

Stone said he discussed P. M. A. with Nixon; and no one could dispute Stone's contention that Nixon has persevered since. Despite the Watergate incident, Stone said he believes his investment in Nixon's campaign was well spent, and that the President's integrity is untarnished.

STONE SAID Nixon was deceived by his closest advisers; that this has weakened the

President to the point where he is now hospitalized; and that if Nixon established government controls on campaign spending, it would help restore public confidence in his administration.

Tho he does not believe his money was used in Watergate, Stone admits he could have been deceived. As Athey put it, "No

contributor could conjure up anything like Watergate in his wildest dream."

Stone suggested that his foundation's policy for other contributions be extended to cover political donations and that similar controls be worked into a government code of ethics for campaign spending at the national, state, and local levels.