

Nixon Backer Tells of Link To Lawyer in Funds Case

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By WALTER RUGABER AUG 23 1972
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MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 22— One of President Nixon's finantoday a long-standing friendship with the Mexican lawyer whose bank drafts for \$89,000 have turned up in connection with the break-in at Democratic headquarters in Washington.

Robert H. Allen, president of of the Gulf Resources and Chemical Company of Houston, declined to discuss how the \$89,000 might have reached the Mexico City lawyer, Manuel Ogarrío Daguerre.

"Well, quite frankly, I don't want to speculate on that," Mr. Allen said. The businessman, who arrived here today for the Republican National Convention, is chairman of the Texas Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Mr. Allen asserted that the transaction had occurred prior to April 7, when a new campaign finance law took effect, and that President Nixon's organization had taken the position that disclosure was therefore not required.

Four drafts, payable to Mr. Ogarrío, were issued by the Banco Internacional in Mexico City on April 4. They were

subsequently passed through a Miami bank account controlled by Bernard L. Barker, the alleged leader of the break-in last June 17.

When Mr. Barker was arrested in the June 17 break-in, he had in his possession 53 \$100 bills, which were traced through their serial numbers to the \$89,000 withdrawn in Miami in early May.

Mr. Ogarrío has said that he never received the checks and knew nothing about them. The source of the \$89,000, part of at least \$114,000 available to Mr. Barker before the break-in, is obscure.

Disclaims Break-in Role

Mr. Allen, asked to deny that he had sent the funds to Mexico City or knew who did, replied that "I can't say that." He did say, however, that he had nothing to do with the June 17 break-in.

The businessman explained that he had known Mr. Ogarrío "personally for many years." He said the lawyer had once represented his company in

Mexico, but he added that the concern was no longer active in the country.

A check for \$25,000 that also passed through Mr. Barker's Miami account is known to have represented contributions that had been collected by Kenneth H. Dahlberg of Minneapolis, Mr. Nixon's Midwestern finance chief.

Fund Discrepancies Denied

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 22—An official of the Committee for the Re-election of the President denied today printed allegations saying that Federal auditors had uncovered illegal discrepancies in the committee's handling of some \$500,000 worth of campaign funds.

Paul E. Barrick, the committee's treasurer, called "entirely wrong" a report carried in today's editions of The Washington Post that had stated that investigators for the General Accounting Office had found failures by committee officials to report about \$200,000 in contributions and a similar amount in expenditures, as required by the new Federal campaign election law.

The Post article also said the G.A.O., which is the Congressional auditing and investigative agency, had discovered the existence of a "campaign security fund" containing \$100,000 in unreported funds, as well as "some errors, apparently technical, in reporting a \$50,000 itemization."

Compliance With Law

Mr. Barrick said that since April 7, the date the Federal campaign law's reporting requirements took effect, "this committee has sought diligently to comply with each requirement imposed by that act," and that the committee had "never been advised that any irregularities have been alleged by Government officials with responsibility in this area."

The man in charge of the investigation, Philip S. Hughes, who heads the G.A.O.'s Office of Federal Elections, confirmed that no formal charges against the committee had yet been made, because the official report of the investigation's findings was still incomplete.

Mr. Hughes added that he did not "recognize" any of the alleged violations by the committee referred to in The Post article. He refused to discuss the investigation's findings, pending the release of the report, which is expected in a day or two.

The G.A.O. began looking into the committee's finances on Aug. 1, following the discovery that a \$25,000 cashier's check apparently intended for President Nixon's re-election campaign had been deposited in the Miami bank account of Mr. Barker.