

A Peerless Political Fund-Raiser

Maurice Hubert Stans

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"From the time he walked out of Shakopee, Minn., with a cornet under his arm, Maury Stans was an achiever," says an admirer who worked closely with Maurice Hubert Stans when he was director of the Bureau of the Budget under President Eisenhower. And that is the way Maurice Stans would almost certainly describe himself. Testifying

Man
in the
News

today before the Senate select committee investigating the Watergate affair, Mr. Stans concluded his formal statement by declaring that as chairman in 1972 of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, he raised "the largest amount of money ever spent in a political campaign."

Furthermore, Mr. Stans said, "I can assure the committee that I have made every attempt to abide by the spirit and intent of the election law."

No one could challenge the claim of the former Secretary of Commerce to be a political fund-raiser without peer. Building on his experience as Mr. Nixon's finance chairman in 1968, he outdid himself in 1972, amassing more than \$50-million.

\$100 Bills Flow In

Hundred dollar bills poured into Mr. Stans's safe. According to some testimony, as much as \$350,000 to \$700,000 in cash was stashed in the safe at one time.

On May 10, a grand jury in New York charged Mr. Stans with lying to it about his role in a \$200,000 campaign contribution from the financier Robert L. Vesco, who was under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission at the time, and then trying to obstruct justice by inducing the S.E.C. chairman, G. Bradford Cook, to strike all reference to the contribution from its complaint against Mr. Vesco. Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell was indicted on the same charges.

Mr. Stans has said that in grade school he was good at arithmetic and in high school became fascinated with book-keeping. So it was probably foreordained that he become an accountant.

Born in Shakopee on March 22, 1908, Mr. Stans went to Chicago when he was 17, worked as a stenographer daytimes and attended night school at Northwestern University. At 19, he went to New York to join the firm of Alexander Grant & Co. At 23 he be-

came a Certified Public Accountant and by 30 he was a senior partner of the firm.

Mr. Stans married Kathleen Carmody in 1933. They have four children, two sons and two daughters.

His first Government service was in 1953 when he served on a House of Representatives panel that was conducting a budget review. A year later he was consultant to Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield. In 1955, he was named Deputy Postmaster General. In 1957-58, he became deputy director of the Bureau of the Budget and then served the rest of President Eisenhower's second term as director of the bureau.

Joined Banking Concern

After leaving the Government in January, 1961, he became senior partner in the investment banking company of William R. Staats, Inc., in New York and was president when it merged with Glore Forgan.

President Nixon appointed him Secretary of Commerce in 1969, and he served in that post until 1971, when he became chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Judgments about Mr. Stans by those who have worked closely with him range from high praise to bitter contempt.

One associate at the budget bureau said today that he had "a fine sense of humor," was "a tough trader," a man who "lived his job" and succeeded in "taking the budget out of the field of mystery and into the street, where people could understand it."

This associate said that Mr. Stans was as severe about using the prerequisites of this office as he was in pruning department estimates of need. He never used the official car assigned to him except to go to The Hill or on business. He took taxis to and from his home.

However, at the Commerce Department, one high civil servant there said:

"He was very testy, very cold, insensitive to the niceties. When he left the department, he addressed a gathering of employees. Instead of saying a warm goodbye and thanks, he suddenly launched into a defense of the free enterprise system. Among other things, he said that if blacks only read Horatio Alger, they wouldn't have any problems.

"His attitude always was that everything would be for the best if nobody tampered with the system."

Yet, it is generally agreed that Mr. Stans was deeply committed to improving op-

portunities for blacks when he setup in Commerce an office of minority business enterprise.

When a friend was asked today how he accounted for Mr. Stans's present troubles, he said:

"Stans has an extraordinary, unquestioning kind of loyalty and commitment to Nixon. After Nixon's defeat by Pat Brown [in 1962,] he said, 'He's not all through. We are going to help him become President of the United States, and he's going to be a great President.'

"This is the kind of feeling that gripped Maury and drove him—the feeling that what's good for Nixon is good for the country. And he said to himself, 'You're going to do everything you can.' And the thing he could do that this crowd liked was raise money."

'Presses Very Hard'

Those familiar with Mr. Stans's methods agree that he raised the big money by going after the fat purses himself.

"Stans presses very hard," one associate said. "He would tell them what it was worth for them to assure that George McGovern not spend four years in the White House. One man made a commitment of \$10,000 to me, but Stans got him up to \$50,000. The next day the guy called me back and said, 'I've been thinking about what Maury told me. I'm going to make it \$100,000.'"

Mr. Stans has frequently gone on safaris in Africa and prides himself on being the only American to have shot a bongo, a rare antelope.

He had a film made of his 1966 safari to Chad, and in the dubbed-in narrative which Mr. Stans approved, the porters were referred to as "boys." Mr. Stans delighted in showing the film. Finally, the director of the African section of the United States Information Agency protested, calling the film "an Amos and Andy show." Mr. Stans promised not to show the film any more.

Mr. Stans has scant regard for conservationists and environmentalists. While Secretary of Commerce, he created the National Industrial Pollution Control Council, which was composed entirely of industrialists. The council's subcommittees issued pamphlets attacking existing and proposed legislation as unnecessarily severe and costly.

Mr. Stans himself had an environmental speech in which he called for weighing "economic goals against economic reality." The title of his speech was "Wait a Minute."

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