

Settlement Expected in Fund Suit

By Peter Osnos

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The Nixon re-election campaign finance committee and Common Cause appeared yesterday to be near a settlement of the citizen group's suit to force disclosure of the campaign's financing before April 7, 1972.

Lawyers for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President said in a hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Joseph C. Waddy that they would submit a full accounting of the committee's receipts and expenditures in the pre-April 7 period to the clerk of the House of Representatives. They also said they are agreeable to permitting Common Cause to review that report and come back into court if it finds the document inadequate.

Judge Waddy did not issue any order on the matter yesterday, but indicated he would do so. After a meeting in the judge's chambers yesterday afternoon, sources close to the case said they expected a ruling early next week.

"We're offering to give them exactly what they [Common Cause] asked for," said Robert Barker, the lawyer for Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the campaign finance committee, "a complete and accurate filing."

The exact terms of the proposed report were not spelled out in court yesterday, but Kenneth Wells Parkinson, lawyer for the finance committee, said it would be a detailed list of all persons who made contributions in excess of \$100 and of expenditures in excess of \$100 from Jan. 1, 1971, until April 6, 1972. He said the report would include, besides the finance committee, all the 450-odd other campaign fundraising committees set up in Washington during that period.

The report, Parkinson said, would be filed under the provisions of the 1925 Federal Corrupt Practices Act—as demanded by Common Cause in the suit filed last September. Waddy himself suggested that Common Cause be entitled to go over the document and Parkinson said he would look "favorably" on such an arrangement.

The main objective of the Common Cause action was to force disclosure of those who contributed to the campaign before the new reporting law took effect April 7, 1972. The names of contributors up to March 9, 1972, have already been disclosed as the result of an agreement between the parties last fall. Last month, the White House turned a list of the remaining contributions over to Common Cause, but that list has not been made public.

Sources close to the case said yesterday that it was unlikely any names would be released until the financing report is submitted to the clerk of the House. The campaign committee lawyers asked Waddy for 90 days to prepare the document.