

# Gulf Gave \$100,000 For Nixon--'Pressure'

## Pittsburgh

Gulf Oil Corp. said yesterday that in response to "enormous" political pressure, it contributed \$100,000 to President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

Federal law prohibits corporations from making direct political contributions.

In Akron, Ohio, meanwhile, the chairman of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Russell DeYoung, announced that Goodyear made a \$40,000 corporate contribution to Mr. Nixon's campaign.

DeYoung said the contribution was returned by Mr. Nixon's re-election committee after the company said the cash was a corporate contribution.

The company voluntarily informed the special Watergate prosecutor of the contribution, DeYoung said. He added that the company was not pressured into making the contribution.

Gulf made its announcement in a one-page statement.

The company did not say who authorized the contribution nor did it define the nature of the political pressure.

"I just cannot go beyond the statement," said Paul Sheldon, chief of public relations for Gulf. "That's as specific as I can be."

The statement said Gulf donated its contribution through The Finance Com-

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mittee to Re-Elect the President.

At its own request, Gulf said, the money has been returned.

In addition, the company said, the matter is being investigated by special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who is in charge of the federal probe of the 1972 presidential campaign.

Gulf is the third major corporation to acknowledge publicly that it contributed funds to the President's re-

election campaign. Ashland Oil Co. gave \$100,000 in corporate funds and American Airlines gave \$55,000.

Gulf's donation was made at a time when there was growing concern about oil imports, the controversial Alaska pipeline and the possibility of an energy shortage, but Gulf said specifically that it "was not seeking any special favors and did not have any corporate activity under government scrutiny."

Gulf said its contribution was made "in response to persistent requests to Gulf's Washington representative,

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Claude C. Wild Jr., from representatives of The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President."

The finance committee representatives were not further identified.

"There was enormous pressure in the political system, and the fact that others apparently also yielded is evidence of this," Gulf said.

"This pressure was intense, and at the time it was thought to be irresistible by our Washington representative."

Gulf said the contribution was made "without either the knowledge or approval of the Gulf board of directors."

In Washington, a spokesman for Cox said that Cox' position that voluntary disclosure would be considered a mitigating circumstance by the prosecutors had not changed.

But, he added, "The investigation is going forward and if corporate officers decide to disclose illegal contributions only after the investigation focuses on their firm, one might question how voluntary the disclosure was."

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