

WXPost DEC 2 1973
**Nixon Fund
Got \$50,000
After Pact**

CHICAGO, Dec. 1 (AP)—A prominent architect said Friday that he contributed \$50,000 to President Nixon's 1972 campaign fund after his firm received a federal contract worth nearly \$1 million.

Lester B. Knight, chairman of Lester B. Knight & Associates, Inc. said the contribution was made four months after his firm got the contract, but he insisted "the two have no connection whatsoever."

He said in a telephone interview with a Chicago newspaper that he made the contributions at the urging of former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, Nixon finance committee chairman in 1972.

Federal business accounts for less than 20 per cent of his company's total business, Knight said from Florida, where he is recovering from a heart attack.

The contribution was made April 3, 1972, enabling Knight to keep the donation secret until last Sept. 28 when the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, under court order, made public the names of early contributors.

On Dec. 14, 1971, the General Services Administration awarded Knight's firm a \$911,250 contract for architectural engineering services on the Social Security Administration Payment Center in Chicago.

The GSA said Knight's firm was selected from 40 companies that submitted proposals for design work on the center.