

NYTimes JAN 15 1974
White House Sees
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Error in Disclosing
Milk Fund to Nixon

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (UPI)—The White House said today it was a mistake for an assistant to have informed President Nixon in 1970 of plans by milk producers to contribute \$2-million to his re-election campaign.

However, the deputy White House press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, contended there was no conflict between this occurrence and Mr. Nixon's assertion in a news conference Oct. 26 that he never discussed campaign contributions.

In an exchange with reporters, Mr. Warren repeated the White House position that the information on the campaign contributions had played "no part whatsoever" in Mr. Nixon's decision to increase the Federal subsidies for milk.

A white paper issued by the President last Tuesday in an attempt to refute allegations that he had granted the increased subsidies in return for campaign contributions. The paper disclosed for the first time that a former counsel to the President, Charles W. Colson, informed Mr. Nixon in September, 1970, that the milk lobbyists had pledged \$2-million to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

The milk industry actually contributed \$437,000.

'Refused' to Discuss

At his news conference in October, Mr. Nixon said throughout his public life, he had "refused to have any discussion of contributions." He said he issued orders before the 1972 campaign "that he did not want to have any information from anybody with regard to campaign contributions."

Mr. Nixon's remarks were widely interpreted as meaning that he had known nothing about the fund-raising efforts in his behalf by the Associated Milk Producers Inc. and other dairy groups.

"Occasionally people break rules," Mr. Warren said of Mr. Colson's actions. He said Mr. Nixon's remarks in October were not intended to mislead the public.

Mr. Warren contended that a transcript of a Nixon meeting with dairy leaders a year later, which appeared to indicate he was thanking them for their pledges, should not be so interpreted.

In part of the transcript, made public in a Federal court suit aimed at rolling back the higher subsidies, Mr. Nixon was quoted as saying:

"I must say a lot of businessmen and others I get around this table, they yammer and talk a lot but they don't do anything about it. But you do and I appreciate that.

"I don't need to spell it out. Friends talk and others keep me posted as to what you do."