

*Jack Anderson and Les Whitten***Ford Delegate Pursuit Questioned**

KANSAS CITY—President Ford may have violated federal law in his pursuit of Republican delegates.

The charge has been raised by Paul Kamenar, an attorney for the Federal Election Commission, in a private telegram to Attorney General Edward H. Levi. Kamenar acted on his own behalf, since the FEC lacks jurisdiction.

"President Ford has made expenditures to delegates to the Republican National Convention in the form of favors and entertainment at the White House and at other places," the telegram says.

This wining and dining of delegates, he suggests, may violate sections 597 and 603 of the U.S. criminal code. The penalties could run as high as three years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Kamenar cited at least nine separate incidents. For example, delegates received White House invitations to visit with the President in the Oval Office, to attend the state dinner for Queen Elizabeth II and to view Operation Sail from aboard the USS Forrester in New York Harbor July 4.

The President has issued written orders that "no official action or position on any matter by anyone in the administration . . . shall be promised . . . as consideration, favor or reward for the support of any delegate."

Yet Kamenar contended that a close reading of the law indicates it is a violation even to provide food and liquor to delegates at White House soirees.

As one precedent, the FEC attorney cited indictments brought against a defendant for paying \$1 to each person who would vote for a specified candidate in a general election.

"The Ford situation is much more serious," Kamenar says in the telegram. "If the Justice Department does not consider this law applicable to the convention process, then there would be no legal barrier to giving direct money payments to the delegates."

Footnote: Much of the White House entertaining was paid for with public funds. But under this law, even money spent by the President's campaign committee to sway delegates could be considered illegal.

Agnew's Friends—The heroes of the last Republican convention, Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew, are sitting out this one in purgatory.

At San Clemente, Calif., Nixon is preparing his version of the final days. His memoirs, according to sources who have been in touch with him, will reassert the President's right to steal and wiretap and rig court cases in the national interest.

At Crofton, Md., Agnew has taken over a moribund nonprofit foundation called Education for Democracy. He intends to use it, according to associates, to assert his views and assail his enemies. He is particularly eager, the associates say, to renew his assaults upon the press.

His first effort was an eight-page newsletter, titled Memoranda, which is distinguished by its anti-Israeli, pro-Arab comments. Agnew came down so strongly on the side of the Palestinians that the Anti-Defamation league called his views "as unfair a statement with regard to the human problems in the Middle East as ever we've seen."

Before Agnew mailed out Memoranda, he sent personal letters to several

hundred supporters soliciting contributions. The letter declared battle upon "the apologists for the revolutionaries who are intent on destroying the strengths of our great country."

The return mail brought donations from such luminaries as GOP presidential contender Ronald Reagan, actor John Wayne, beer brewer Joesph Coors, Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), former auto racer Andy Granatelli, National Review publisher William Rusher, former Nixon fund-raiser Maurice Stans and former White House aide Bryce Harlow.

Most of the contributors told us they coughed up money to help Agnew, not to support his anti-Israeli views. Wayne said he didn't even see the newsletter. Rusher said he sent money because the foundation "sounded like a routinely conservative operation." We were unable to reach Coors, Granatelli, Stans and Reagan for comments.

Coors and Stans kicked in \$1,000 apiece; Wayne gave \$500; Granatelli, \$400; Reagan, \$100; Rusher, \$100; Harlow, \$100; and Thurmond, \$25. Thus far, the foundation has taken in \$29,797.11. Agnew put up \$20,000 himself. The eleven cents came from a contributor whose heart, if not his pocketbook, was with Agnew.

The attorney who handled the foundation's tax exemption application, incidentally, is former White House aide Tom Charles Huston. He was the author of the infamous "Huston plan" for domestic surveillance under Nixon. He handled the paperwork for the foundation, he said, before Agnew took it over. It was just a "coincidence," he said, that Agnew became involved.

DROPOUTS*By Howard Post*