

# Odor of Campaign Gifts

WASHINGTON — What ever happened to the America in which you could get run out of this town for accepting a deep freezer or a vicuna coat?

The public seems to take it so much for granted that both parties sell influence and steal a little that you wonder how many people would be outraged if a "For Sale" sign went up on the White House tomorrow.

WE HAVE DRIFTED into a campaign madness where both parties figure the presidency is something that can be bought. It thus becomes a common expectation that the big-money people who help do the buying will also buy themselves the favors of all the other agencies of government.

We still have that incredible ITT mess, with executives of the giant conglomerate admitting they ordered the shredding of documents that might prove "embarrassing," but with its Washington lobbyist Dita Beard declaring three weeks later that the memo which caused the most embarrassment is a "forgery." And then all of a sudden ITT comes up with what it says is the "real" Beard memorandum, a sweetly innocent little item which somehow escaped the shredding operation.

Life magazine pops up with another claim of Justice Department tampering with justice to protect some big contributors in San Diego. Acting Attorney General,

Richard Kleindienst, who is cast as the villain of the San Diego shuggle as well as the ITT affair, is vehement in denying the Life charges.

It didn't have quite the same rancid smell about it, but who could be happy about the spate of revelations of financial supporters by some of the Democratic candidates (or the refusal of others, like Sen. Henry Jackson, to tell).

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey disclosed that while 2,307 "little" contributors give him \$74,973.95, he had 121 supporters who gave \$763,741.34.

Dwayne A. Andreas, an old Humphrey friend and chairman of First Interoceanic Corp., gave Humphrey \$75,000. Andreas's brother, Lowell, gave \$25,000. Another First Interoceanic official gave another \$25,000.

THE EFFORTS to circumvent a new law effective April 7 have been going on frantically. The Republicans quickly opened more than 200 new bank accounts in Washington so heavy donors could rush their money to front groups. Former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans has been out urging wealthy GOP supporters to get large donations in before a new law takes effect so their names won't have to be reported.

What this country needs is a system where all the American people pay a little to finance all the serious presidential candidates — a system like the recently-proposed tax-checkoff that Mr. Nixon vetoed.