Did Nixon Gifts Stir Milk Supports Hike?

By Grace Basset

Washing ton Bureau

WASHINGTON — Secret contributions of $200,000 from dairymen to President Nixon's campaign fueled speculation today that the gifts influenced the Administration to raise milk prices.

Other donors who have put Nixon in their debt:

- Insurance tycoon W. Clement Stone and his wife, of Chicago, who gave $5 million.
- Ten families of great wealth, mostly inherited, who together contributed $2.3 million.

- Family friend Elmer Bobst whose contribution of $50,000 has been linked by George McGovern to million dollar profits for Bobst's drug firm, Warner Lambert. Business picked up after Attorney General Richard Kleindienst approved a merger opposed by lawyers lower down in the Justice Department.

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Nixon decided to raise milk price supports March 25, 1971, after an Administration announcement two weeks earlier that he would not.

The campaign contributions from milkmen came from three political fund raising committees — ADPFT, for mid-America Dairymen, Inc., Springfield, Mo.

TAPE, for the Associated Milk Producers, Inc., San Antonio, Tex.; and SPACE, Agricultural Community Education of Louisville, Ky. and Richmond, Va.

Contribution Stone, chairman of Combined Insurance Co. of America, had said publicly he gave more than $300,000 to the Nixon campaign.

He was the largest known Nixon donor in 1968, giving $500,000 and apparently will hold that rank this year. He has given another $27,500 in recorded contributions since April 7.

In all, there were 21 gifts of $50,000 or more. Some $3.3 million was given by 10 families.

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