

Stans Asserts He Doesn't Know How Suspect Got G.O.P. Funds

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By WALTER RUGABER AUG 25 1972
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MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 24—Maurice H. Stans said under oath today that he did not know how \$114,000 in contributions to President Nixon's re-election campaign ended up in the possession of a man arrested in the break-in at the Democratic headquarters in Washington last June 17.

Mr. Stans, a former Secretary of Commerce who is now Mr. Nixon's chief fund raiser, was subpoenaed and privately questioned this morning in the Doral Hotel suite he occupied during the Republican National Convention, which ended here yesterday.

It was the second time in two days that a ranking Republican official, here for the convention, has been interrogated by the office of State Attorney Richard E. Gerstein, the local prosecutor, in connection with the break-in.

Both Mr. Stans and Kenneth H. Dahlberg, a regional finance chairman for Mr. Nixon, who was subpoenaed yesterday, were questioned about the Florida aspects of the case by Mr. Gerstein's chief investigator, Martin Dardis.

In a statement today, Mr. Dardis said only that he had concentrated on possible violations of Florida law that might be involved in connection with the \$114,000. He added that Mr. Stans had "fully" cooperated in the questioning.

While many details of the investigations here and in Washington have not been disclosed, the course of the funds found in the possession of the men accused of the break-in has become largely clear in the last several days.

It is now apparent that the

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money originated in two packages, as large cash contributions by prominent Democrats and others who were eager to hide their identities as donors to the Republican Presidential nominee.

Queried in Capital

One package originated in Texas. It consisted of \$89,000 that was taken to Mexico City and converted into four bank drafts payable to a lawyer

there, Manuel Ogarrio Da-guerre. He has denied knowledge of the drafts.

Two Houston oilmen, who also serve as regional finance officials for the Nixon campaign, have been subpoenaed by a Federal grand jury in Washington in connection with the Mexican transaction.

William C. Liedtke, president of the Pennzoil Company, and Roy J. Winchester, the company's vice president for public affairs, were understood to have gone before the Federal panel today.

Both men are regional chairmen of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President. The chairman of the Texas Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, Robert H. Allen of Houston, has said that he is a friend of Mr. Ogarrio.

Mr. Gerstein's office also served a subpoena on Mr. Allen, and he was scheduled for questioning this morning. The session was postponed, however, apparently when the names of Mr. Liedtke and Mr. Winchester came up.

The \$89,000 in checks was "sacked up" in Houston, with other funds apparently included in the package, and was sent to re-election committee officials in Washington for the campaign, an informant said.

Mr. Dahlberg has said that, more or less simultaneously, he came to Florida from his home in Minnesota and picked up a \$25,000 cash donation on April 9. The money is said to have come from an important Democratic source.

The Minnesotan says that he converted the money into a cashier's check, drawn on a bank in Boca Raton, and flew with it to Washington, where he handed it to Mr. Stans at a fund-raising meeting at the Washington Hilton Hotel on April 11.

Mr. Stans was previously questioned by the Federal authorities, including agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but the session today is believed to be the first time the former Commerce Secretary has been under oath.

Mr. Stans testified today, a source familiar with the case reported, that he never saw the four Mexico City drafts and was unaware of them until they came up in the investigation.

Passed Check On

He acknowledged that he had received the \$25,000 check from Mr. Dahlberg and had handed it almost immediately

to Hugh W. Sloan Jr., onetime treasurer of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, a separate campaign organization.

Mr. Stans is understood to have said that he has since been informed that Mr. Sloan passed the check on to G. Gordon Liddy, a onetime lawyer for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Mr. Sloan resigned his post

July 14, but he denied the move had anything to do with the break-in. Mr. Liddy was dismissed after he refused on a number of occasions to answer Government questions about the break-in.

In Washington today, Mr. Liddy spent more than three hours in the offices of a lawyer for the Democratic party, giving the first in a series of at least 13 depositions scheduled in connection with a lawsuit arising from the break-in.

Evidence Ordered Sealed

Mr. Liddy, smiling but silent when approached by reporters, was questioned in the offices of Edward Bennett Williams, counsel for the Democrats in a \$1-million civil suit filed against the alleged burglars and various Republican figures.

He was questioned in private, and a Federal District Judge has ordered all the evidence sealed, at least for the moment. Other persons, including Mr. Stans, are to be questioned in the case later.

Records made available to The New York Times have shown that Bernard L. Barker of Miami, the alleged leader of the break-in, placed numerous telephone calls to numbers in Mr. Liddy's Republican offices and at least one to Mr. Liddy's home.

On April 20, barely two weeks after the Ogarrio checks were written in Mexico and 10 days after the Dahlberg draft was issued in Boca Raton, Mr. Barker deposited all five in an account he controls at the Republic National Bank in Miami.

Converted to Cash

He withdrew the \$114,000, in cash, on April 24, May 2 and May 8. Much of the money was paid to him in \$100 bills, and 53 such bills were found in his pockets and his hotel room the night he and four others persons were arrested in the Democratic offices.

In an apparent effort to persuade a reluctant Miami banker to cash the Dahlberg check quickly, the Minnesotan's signed endorsement was certified in a statement that appears to have been signed by Mr. Barker, who is a notary public.

The questioning by Dr. Dardis yesterday and today appears to have been designed to establish that Mr. Dahlberg did not sign the check in Mr. Barker's presence. If that is true,

Mr. Barker could be charged with a felony under Florida law.

In a Washington development, Judge Charles R. Richey of the United States District Court urged lawyers for the Democratic party to help him find ways to unseal the depositions in the case without infringing upon the rights of those questioned.

The judge said he had "grave concern" that if something "is not done by the court to rapidly bring this matter to a head one way or the other, by way of a settlement or a trial, the integrity of the courts may become subject to question."

There were earlier indications that virtually all the evidence in the civil case, and perhaps in the criminal case as well, might be kept secret until sometime after the November election.