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GOP-Bank 320 2 takes total 520

WASHINGTON AP - The U.S. Comptroller of the Currency Monday emphatically denied implications of wrongdoing in the award of a national bank charter to applicants including a GOP fund-raiser and a campaign contributor.

"This is one of the cleanest cases I've ever seen," declared Comptroller William B. Camp.

"This case was obviously so good on the banking and economic factors that we could handle it with dispatch," he told newsmen.

Camp's comments came as he released a letter to Chairman Wright Patman of the House Banking and Currency Committee. Patman had requested the file following news stories which linked one of the bank applicants, Dwayne Andreas, with a controversial \$25,000 contribution.

In vehement terms, Camp said no political influence had been exercised in the award of the charter.

Asked if he had been contacted by anyone in the administration or in the reelection campaign of President Nixon, he replied, "Nobody has ever called this office" about this particular case.

"I have been here 37 years and I don't give a damn whether you're a Democrat or a Republican or a Farm Laborite, if you're not a good guy, you're not going to get a charter," he declared.

In Saturday's editions, the Washington Post quoted Minnesota Commissioner of Banks Marvin L. Rye, as saying Andreas received the federal charter with unusual speed.

"I've heard a lot of speculation why they got the federal charter," Rye was quoted as saying.

It was earlier disclosed that Andreas contributed \$25,000 to President Nixon's reelection campaign. He gave the contribution to Kenneth H. Dahlberg, midwest campaign finance chief for the presidential reelection campaign.

Dahlberg was also listed as one of the five applicants for the charter for the Ridgeway National Bank at Minnetonka, Minn. The application was filed May 26 of this year and approved by Camp Aug. 22.

"The Comptroller's office attempts to process all new bank proposals within 90 days after receiving a fully documented application," said Camp in the letter to Patman.

Other applicants included Frederick L. Deming, who also was designated agent for the bank, C. Bernard Jacobs and Eugene T. Montgomery. All listed their address as Minneapolis with the exception of Andreas whose address was listed as Miami Beach, Fla.

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Each of the five applicants is a director of National City Bank of Minneapolis which is controlled by Independent Bancorporation, a bank holding company which would also control the Ridgeway bank, according to records released by Camp.

Controversy first arose about Andreas' \$25,000 contribution when it was learned that it found its way into the bank accounts of Barnard L. Baker, one of the suspects in the June 17 break-in at Democratic national headquarters here.

The records of the bank application have apparently involved another political name, that of Sen. Peter Dominick, R-Cole.

One of the documents in the file bore the notation, "notify Senator Dominick."

Camp said that such congressional inquiries were not uncommon and added that he did not know what Dominick's interest in the case was.

An aide to Dominick, Tom Dalonzo, said Dominick got into the case because, "an old friend, Winton Jones," requested it.

Dalonzo said he only requested information on the status of the application and did not discuss its merits. Dalonzo described Jones as a Minnesota banker.

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In unrelated story, Newsweek (4 Sep 72, p. 24, filed Nix Ad) describes Sen. Dominick as "head of the GOP Senate Campaign Committee."

See also memo this file 28 Aug 72.