

Break-In Link

Pressure Denied In New Bank OK

Washington

The head of the government's national banking system denied yesterday any connection between a

connection between a \$25,000 campaign contribution to President Nixon and the speedy approval of a national bank charter in Minnesota.

The charter went to a group that included two persons connected with a suspect in the burglary at Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate apartments. But Comptroller of the Currency William B. Camp said the request to establish a new bank in suburban Minneapolis by a five-man holding company was "one of the cleanest cases I've ever seen."

The applicants included Dwayne O. Andreas, a longtime friend of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and a recent contributor to Mr. Nixon, and Kenneth H. Dahlberg, the President's Midwest finance director, both connected with a suspect in the Watergate break-in.

PRESSURE

Camp, who has final authority to approve or deny coveted national bank chart-

ers, said he does not know Andreas or Dahlberg and never talked to them. He said he received no pressure on the case "from the Treasury, the White House or anywhere else."

The comptroller spoke to reporters amid speculation over the timing of the approval of the charter application for the Ridgedale National Bank, Minnetonka, to Andreas, Dahlberg and three associates.

A \$25,000 contribution from Andreas has been traced by the FBI to the Florida bank account of Bernard L. Barker, one of the suspects in the June break-in. Dahlberg has said he passed the check from Andreas to Mr. Nixon's chief fund raiser, Maurice Stans.

POLITICAL

Speculation that influence peddling played any part in Camp's favorable decision is "politically motivated," primarily by Representative Wright Patman (Dem - Texas), chairman of the House Banking Committee, Camp said. The comptroller called Patman "a great publicity seeker."

Camp also indicated that the 89-day time span between application and approval was quick but not unprecedented. Most bank charter applications are pro-

cessed between 90 and 100 days, he said. Camp said his examiners had found a need for a bank in that area and determined that the applicants were financially qualified to take on the venture.

Camp has been in the comptroller's office for 32 years and was appointed to the job by President John-