

# Suit on Nixon Donations

## Washington

Common Cause, the so-called people's lobby, filed suit yesterday to require disclosure of the contributors who gave more than \$10 million to President Nixon's campaign before April 7.

The Finance Committee to Re-elect the President maintained, however, that it does not have to release the names because it isn't a committee as defined in the law.

Common Cause said the finance committee violated the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925, which was repealed April 7 when the new Federal Election Campaign Act became effective. The new act requires disclosure of all contributions of more than \$100.

### DISCLOSURES

John W. Gardner, Common Cause chairman, said the old law required periodic disclosure reports from "any committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing the election of candidates or presidential and vice presidential electors in two or more states."

Stanley Ebner, counsel to the finance committee, said in a letter to Gardner Tuesday night that the organization is "not a committee within the law because it... was organized solely for his (Mr. Nixon's) renomination, not his election."

Of the 1925 law, Ebner said: "It was precisely this failure of former law to require reporting in many cases which led to the enactment of the Federal Election



AP Wirephoto

**JOHN GARDNER**  
He cited old law

Campaign Act.

"This is a most difficult time for the political process," Ebner said. "Your apparent intention is to provoke further inquiry into what is now well settled and noncontroversial can only add confusion which is certainly not needed."

### GROUNDS

Gardner, a former secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, said Common Cause brought the U.S. District Court suit itself on grounds the Justice Department, which is supposed to enforce the act, is too political.

"It must be emphasized that we are not dealing only with past events," Gardner said at a news conference. "The \$10 million raised before April 7 may profoundly influence events between now and November."

Gardner, a registered Republican, said "the failure to meet this obligation deprives the public of vital information prior to the November election, information they are entitled to know under law."

Associated Press