

Burger Refuses to Put Off Suit On Listing G.O.P. Contributions

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 — Chief Justice Warren E. Burger refused late today to stay the trial of a politically sensitive lawsuit that could force the disclosure of the concealed contributors of more than \$10.2-million to President Nixon's reelection campaign.

However, the trial was postponed for 24 hours any way on what was to have been its opening today after Judge Joseph C. Waddy, presiding in the United States District Court here, conferred privately in his chambers with counsel for the plaintiff, Common Cause, the reformist "citizens' lobby"; and for the main defendant, the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

One postponement granted by Judge Waddy and not publicly explained was from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. today. Then, during a brief hearing in open court this afternoon, the judge agreed to a second delay until 10 A.M. tomorrow, saying only that it was to allow opposing lawyers more time to negotiate a stipulation — an agreement on a disputed point.

Lawyers for both sides declined to offer more than cryptic comments on the out-of-court negotiations, which were still under way tonight. But one of them said that, if successful, the pretrial bargaining could forestall a trial.

This could occur, lawyers said, if the Nixon finance committee were to agree to make public some or all of the hidden contributors' names.

The Republican committee

has contended that it was under no binding legal obligation to disclose the names of contributors of millions of dollars before the April 7 effective date of the new Federal Election Campaign Act.

Common Cause has argued that under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925, which was in force until April 6, the Republicans were as obligated to make full disclosure as under the new law. The reform group is demanding disclosure now.