

Campaign '72

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Campaign Check

Case Conviction

MIAMI — (UPI) — A criminal court judge today convicted ex-CIA agent Bernard L. Barker, a defendant in the Watergate case, of fraudulently notarizing a \$25,000 check donated to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Judge Paul Baker heard the case without a jury and first reduced the charge against Barker to a misdemeanor, then found him guilty and gave him a 60-day suspended sentence.

The verdict came quickly after a two and one-half-hour hearing at which two officials of the Committee to Re-Elect President Nixon couldn't explain how the \$25,000 donation to the Nixon campaign came to be notarized by Barker, a Miami real estate agent.

Democrats allege the \$25,000 was used to finance the break-in and bugging of

the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. Barker has been indicted in the Watergate case.

Kenneth H. Dahlberg of Minneapolis, regional finance chairman of the Committee to Re-elect the President, and Hugh W. Sloan Jr. of Washington, former treasurer for the Committee, appeared as prosecution witnesses.

Dahlberg said he received a \$25,000 cash donation to the Nixon campaign in Bal Harbor, a swank Miami Beach suburb, and converted it into a cashier's check.

He said he turned the check, bearing his signature, over to Maurice Stans, finance chairman of the Nixon Campaign, at a meeting in Washington's Hilton Hotel last April 11.

Sloan said he received the

check from Stans and passed it on to G. Gordon Liddy, former legal counsel for the committee who also has been indicted in the Watergate case.

Dahlberg and Sloan testified they did not know Barker and didn't remember seeing him at the crowded Hilton Hotel meeting.

Barker was accused of notarizing the cashier's check outside the presence of Dahlberg, the man who signed it.

The check was deposited in the First Bank and Trust Co. of Boca Raton, Fla.

Prosecution efforts to question Dahlberg and Sloan about where the \$25,000 contribution came from and about an alleged deposit of \$114,000 by Barker in a Miami bank were successfully turned aside by defense objections.