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GOP Will Reveal Some More Donors

Action Before Election

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

President Nixon's main election finance committees agreed yesterday to disclose before election day the names of some hidden donors and a trial on the issue was postponed as a result.

The trial involves a suit brought September 6 by Common Cause, the so-called citizens lobby, to force an even fuller disclosure than the one agreed on yesterday.

For months the Republicans had fought efforts to persuade them to disclose voluntarily the names of those who helped raise more than \$10 million for the party prior to new legislation making such disclosure mandatory.

One list, covering contributions of \$1000 or more given to the Committee for the Re-Election of the President between January, 1971, and March 9, 1972, is to be released before 9 p.m. today under terms of an out-of-court agreement reached here yesterday and approved by U.S. District Judge Joseph C. Waddy.

A second list, reporting contributors of \$100 or more over the same period, is to

be made public by noon Sunday. Election day is next Tuesday.

GAP

The gap between March 9, 1972, and the April 7 effective date of the new and more stringent federal disclosure provisions is significant.

Mid-March to April 6 is believed to have been the time of the heaviest and most potentially controversial Republican contributions. Some experts on campaign spending have esti-

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mated the unknown total at nearly \$20 million.

Although lawyers for the Republican finance committees denied it yesterday, spokesmen for Common Cause said that one important aspect of the settlement was that it avoided having Maurice H. Stans, Mr. Nixon's former secretary of Commerce and now his chief fund-raiser, testify in open court before election day.

John W. Gardner, Common Cause chairman, said the postponement of Stans's testimony "obviously" had been the Republicans' chief concern.

STRATEGIST

Stans had been repeatedly identified both by Democratic critics of the Nixon campaign organization and in official government reports as the chief strategist of the Republican campaign fund-raising that took place before the April 7 effective date of the new Federal Election Campaign Act.

His name and that of Hugh Sloan, a former Stans aide, have also been linked with the financing of the alleged bugging of the Watergate offices of the Democratic national committee here and with the conceal-

ment in an office safe of \$350,000 in cash for which expenditure records apparently were destroyed.

Stans had been scheduled to be the first witness in the trial. Sloan would have been summoned next.

SETTLEMENT

The Republican disclosure will contain no public information about expenditures.

Under yesterday's court-approved settlement, both the contribution and expenditure data for the full period to April 7 are to be filed and locked under unusual security arrangements with the clerk of the district court. Only lawyers for the disputants in the suit, brought by Common Cause, are to have access to them.

This may make it difficult or impossible for other investigators, such as those of congressional committees, to see the Republicans' finance records until the trial is completed next year.

Senator George McGovern and his principal Democratic opponents in the spring primaries, all have made voluntary contribution disclosures covering the period for which the Republicans until now have not issued disclosures.